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Champion

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TENANTS FUMINING OVER INVESTMENT CENTRE 'SWEATSHOP'!

Workers left with no air conditioning or ventilation during heatwave

Report by **Henry James**

ANGRY tenants at the West Lancashire Investment Centre in Skelmersdale have hit out at the borough council after being left without air conditioning and ventilation during the recent heatwave.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper who visited the centre at Whitemoss Business Park to meet with tenants described the situation as "truly shocking" and called on the authority to resolve the problem immediately.

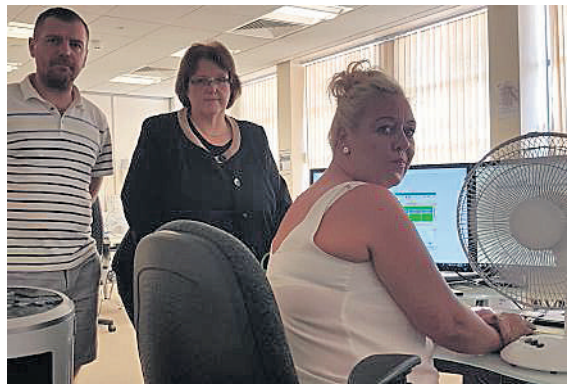
The centre had been without a building 'chiller' or adequate air conditioning for weeks but the recent rise in temperatures has left workers and business owners at the site fuming as there are no windows to open in the building leaving no through air in the offices.

Ms Cooper said the problems with the air conditioning at the centre had been going on for years, with problems evident even in the winter.

Tenants say they were told nine weeks ago that it would take 12 weeks to get a replacement chiller which they described as unacceptable.

The council offered temporary 'office coolers' but the tenants say these just cannot cope with the heat and have leaked over the carpets.

Personal Care Services, who have operated out of the premises since 2013, felt they were getting no support from the landlord - West Lancs Council - when raising their concerns over the impact the 35 degree heat in the offices was having on staff.



Rosie Cooper discusses the problem with Roy Hampson and Nicola Connolly of Personal Care Services.

Rosie Cooper said: "This is a truly shocking situation where the council is happy to continue to collect thousands of pounds in rent and service charges but leave the tenants to work in 35-degree heat and not address the actual issue of the air conditioning.

"Astonishingly, the workplace health, safety and welfare regulations stipulate a minimum working temperature but not a maximum one, or else West Lancs Council would find themselves in legal difficulties.

"These businesses are paying money but not getting fair service."

West Lancashire Borough Council commented: "An oil pump in the air conditioning system at the Investment Centre failed on Friday, June 22. Engineers were immediately called out to assess and resolve the situation. A repair was undertaken as soon as an engineer was available on June 29 and the system is now working again.

Discomfort

"It is unfortunate and regrettable that this occurred during the hottest June on record. The council sought to mitigate some of the discomfort by purchasing and providing portable chiller units but recognise that in some offices these could not adequately cope with the rising temperatures during the day.

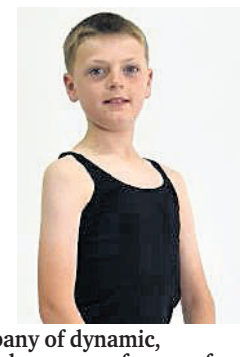
"The council had experts undertake work on the system earlier this year and are currently in the process of procuring contractors to design and install a replacement air conditioning system within the Investment Centre.

"Other, longer-term solutions, such as the

Continued inside

Bradley takes first steps to stage stardom

A TALENTED young dancer from Skelmersdale has taken the first steps towards a career on the stage by winning a place with the award-winning children's theatrical company, Stagebox.



Ten-year-old Bradley West *(right)* a pupil at the Base Dance Performing Arts Academy in Burscough, successfully negotiated the company's highly-competitive audition process to be accepted for their Elite Team programme.

Stagebox auditions children from across the UK and internationally to select a company of dynamic, talented and professional young performers for the programme, with just 25 juniors and 25 seniors nationally accepted.

Out of hundreds of applicants Bradley, who goes to Woodland Community Primary School in Skelmersdale, won one of only three places available at the auditions he attended.

Stagebox produces professional musical theatre videos, which showcases its Elite teams to hundreds of thousands online.

The training experience also includes vocal recording in a professional studio and 'on location' shoots throughout the year.

Many former Stagebox trainees can currently be seen in West End shows, UK and international tours and film and TV.

Claire Lloyd, principal of Base Dance, said: "Bradley has been a pupil at our academy for a couple of years and has grown into a confident young performer.

"He wants to fulfil his dream on stage and I, alongside his very supportive family, fully support him in doing so. He is a very talented and hardworking young performer."

Stagebox operates alongside the children's training academy and Bradley will continue to be trained at Base Dance, in conjunction with his training with Stagebox.

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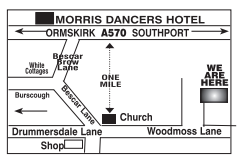

County's organ donor numbers on the rise

...but more still urgently needed to join register - including over-50s

NEW figures reveal a total of 47 people from Lancashire became lifesaving deceased organ donors over the last year, helping the UK reach its highest ever number of donors.

More and more families in the area are supporting donation. There has been a 213% increase in donors in Lancashire over the last decade.

NHS Blood and Transplant released the figures to mark the publication of its annual Transplant Activity Report on Monday (July 9).

The report reveals there is growing support for organ donation in Lancashire and around the country. Nationally, there was a record number of organ donors, with 1,574 people saving lives through deceased organ donation over the last year.

However, the overall shortage of donors remains and there is an urgent need for more people to support donation.

An organ donation box arriving at hospital for a transplant operation.

Around three people die a day in need of a donated organ but many people have never told their relatives they want to save lives. Letting your family know that you want to donate will make it much easier for them to support what you want.

There are still 114 people from Lancashire on the transplant waiting list and a donated organ is the last and only hope for many.

Sally Johnson, director of organ donation and transplantation for NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We're incredibly grateful to all the families in Lancashire who have chosen to say 'yes' to organ donation.

"Organ donation is the only hope for many desperately ill people. We know many families feel a sense of pride and comfort from their decision to save lives through organ donation. We want more people to have that opportunity."

The annual report also demonstrates how the ageing population means the average age of potential donors is increasing. The average age of donors in Lancashire during the 2017 calendar year was 50.

Anyone can join the NHS Organ Donor Register. Age and medical conditions are not necessarily a barrier. However many over-50s don't join the register or tell their families they want to donate because they don't think their organs could help other people.

Sally Johnson said: "We need more people aged over 50 in Lancashire to support donation. People in older age groups can still save and transform lives through organ and tissue donation."

For more information about the NHS Organ Donor Register go to www.organdonation.nhs.uk.

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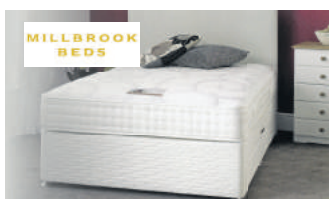

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OLD BED RECYCLING SERVICE

Whitemoss Community Fund handouts top the £half-million mark

Nine projects to benefit from grants totalling £116,00 in latest round of awards

Report by **Henry James**

Fun run at Hillside community field - a £20kgrant will kick-start phase one of a programme of improvement works to create a pocket park for the community.

NINE community groups in West lancashire are the latest to benefit from the Whitemoss Community Fund as it hits the half-a-million pound mark.

The fund, provided by Whitemoss Landfill Limited who operate the landfill site in Skelmersdale, has awarded grants to local communities around the site each year since 2010.

To date 43 local groups have benefited from the fund with the latest series of cash boosts taking the total it has handed out to local projects to £500,000.

This year, two groups were lucky enough to scoop £20,000 each, the maximum grant available.

Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside will utilise their £20k to improve the fishing pond at Tawd Valley, Skelmersdale as part of a larger improvement project planned for the area.

And Hillside Community Primary School, Tanhouse will use their £20k grant to kick-start phase one of a programme of improvement works on the field adjacent to the school in Egerton to create a pocket park for the community.

A grant of £19,335 was awarded to the given Third Way Community Interest Company to create a community art hub in Parbold.

And the Greenhill Community Hub in Beech Close, Skelmersdale has been awarded £16,414 to buy new IT equipment to ensure users have the latest technology available and don't become digitally excluded.

Budding England stars of the future have also'scored' with Skelmersdale Junior Football League being awarded a grant of £13,200 to buy new goals so they can continue to provide development football opportunities for thousands of kids each weekend at their home at Whitemoss Playing Fields.

A donation of £11,550 will enable Lancashire Wildlife Trust to create the necessary infrastructure to allow conservation grazing to take place at Scutchers Acres in Lathom.

Meanwhile Hilldale Community Association have been awarded £7,855 to repair and replace seating on the village playing field to ensure continued use of this green area by the community.

Two local scout groups have also been given welcome boosts.

'Buzzing'

The 40th Ormskirk Scouts receive £4,300 to help finance an outdoor venture area and car park; while the 1st Parbold and Newburgh Scouts will use their £3,791 award to provide new equipment and storage.

Jeanette Newman of the Greenhill Community Hub said: "We are buzzing - new computers, new lighting, projectors and screens will enable us to improve the lives of so many people, whether through our own activities or through the improved activities of groups that hire the rooms.

"It really is exciting news as the grant will bring us digitally up to date and inject new life into the hub so we can help those who are digitally excluded."

And Angela Aspinwall-Livesey, executive headteacher of Hillside Community Primary School, commented: "What a bonus to be able to begin to transform our beautiful green space into an activity hub for the benefit of everybody who lives in the Tanhouse area - a place to meet, walk, run and enjoy activities."

Rob Routledge, chair of the Whitemoss Community Fund Advisory Group, said: "This is great news for local groups.

"I'm particularly pleased that this year's windfall stood at over £116,000 – that's the largest annual sum given away by the fund since it launched in 2010."

The Whitemoss Community Fund offers grants between £5,000 and £20,000 for community projects in and around Skelmersdale.

For more details about the fund and how to apply visit www.grantscape.org.uk or call Liz Payne on 07963 987653.

The Guide Dogs charity for the blind is seeking volunteers in the Skelmersdale area to join its My Guide service.

Charity for the blind seeks local My Guide volunteers

GUIDE Dogs, the charity for the blind, is looking for people who want to make a difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people in Skelmersdale and surrounding area by becoming My Guide volunteers.

My Guide is the charity's free service that helps people with a vision impairment get out of their homes and into the community with a volunteer as their sighted guide.

The charity's My Guide manager, Kerry Singleton, said: "My Guide volunteers will make a very real difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people, learn new skills and give something back to the community."

Volunteers will spend a few hours a week with a service user, making trips out to activities that the pair will agree at the start of their relationship.

Journeys could be to the shops, to a café, theatre or maybe a sport event - any activity the service user wants to take part in.

Volunteers, who must be prepared to go through a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, take part in a nationally-recognised training course, developed by Guide Dogs.

Kerry added: "All volunteers will have the satisfaction of knowing they have contributed to an independent lifestyle for their blind and partially sighted partners."

More information on how to become a My Guide volunteer is available from Kerry by calling 0345 143 0215 or by email at kerry.singleton@guidedogs.org.uk.

Zoo ranger to host free family-friendly events

A SAFARI ranger from Chester Zoo is hosting three family-friendly events at Skelmersdale Library.

The free 'Leap for Lemurs' workshops will be held at the library, on Southway, from 1 to 2pm on Tuesday, July 31, Wednesday, August 1 and Wednesday, August 15.

The interactive sessions will focus on lemurs and Madagascar and are most suitable for children up to the age of 11. Offering the opportunity to be creative as a family, parents or carers will need to attend the sessions with their child. Although attendance at each of the three events is preferred, it is not essential.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "I'm delighted that we are hosting these free sessions at the library. They should be fascinating to attend and those taking part will be able to discover many interesting facts, including how lemurs communicate, how the wonderful aye-ayes find their food and what type of animal a golden mantella is.

"It isn't always possible for some children to be able to get to the zoo, so this fantastic safari ranger service brings the zoo to where they live."

Chester Zoo's safari ranger service started in 2010 offering free workshops to schools and community groups on an outreach basis. In 2017, the service expanded to have a greater focus on reaching audiences who face barriers to engaging with the zoo.

Places at the workshops are free but booking is essential. For more information or to book a place, call in at the library or phone 0300 123 6703. Alternatively visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/libraries.

Children enjoying an interactive session with a safari ranger.

Library lit up as part of county council celebrations to mark 70th birthday of NHS

SKELMERSDALE Library joined buildings across Lancashire which were lit up blue to mark the 70th birthday of the NHS on Thursday, July 5.

The library in Skelmersdale along with County Hall in Preston and seven other libraries - including Bacup, Carnforth, Kirkham and Ribbleton - was lit up from 9pm to celebrate the big day.

Park Hospital, Trafford was the first NHS hospital to be opened on July 5, 1948 by health minister Nye Bevan.

At that time, the hospital was in the old county of Lancashire and Lancashire County Council handed over the keys of the hospital at a ceremony marking the beginning of the NHS.

Archivists from the county council have also put together a display, which includes an annual report and souvenir booklet from Park Hospital, as well as equipment which would have been used in NHS hospitals back in 1948.

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "It's fitting that we lit up County Hall and Lancashire's libraries to mark this celebration as the first NHS hospital opened its doors in Lancashire on July 5, 1948.

"Park Hospital, now called Trafford General, was within Lancashire at the time and Lancashire County Council handed over a ceremonial key to the hospital to health minister Nye Bevan to symbolise the beginning of the NHS.

"The NHS plays a vital role now, just as it did 70 years ago and we'll continue to work closely together to keep our communities fit and well and to ensure that people with health issues get the early support and treatment they need."

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Resident's anger over suspension of bulky waste collection service

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Keith Dunderdale says not everyone has the means to use the waste recycling centres such as at Abbey Lane, Burscough.

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are currently unable to dispose of household items by means of the borough council's bulk waste collection service after the contractors which previously provided the service to the authority said they could no longer do so.

Council officials say they are trying to establish another provider and have promised to let people know as soon as one is available.

However, local resident Keith Dunderdale is angry that the service was suspended without any notice and says all his efforts to get an explanation from West Lancs Council have been ignored.

He also fears that if the situation is not resolved quickly it could lead to an increase in fly-tipping.

Mr Dunderdale told the Champion: "I have been trying for weeks to receive an answer from the borough council about why they have stopped large item collection for fridges, freezers, sofas etc.

"To date, the three emails I have sent to them asking why the service was stopped and when is it going to return, have simply been ignored.

"There is no guidance on their website as to how a householder or landlord can have these sort of items disposed of in an environmentally-acceptable way.

"I know that you can take these items to a council waste disposal centre but not everyone has the means to do this. You have to have a suitable vehicle and someone who is able to lift and load the item in question on to a vehicle.

"Also, if it will not fit into a car you need a permit for a van or trailer which is more hassle from Lancashire County Council, not West Lancs.

"If this service continues to be withheld there may well be more dangerous fly-tipping of these items taking place around the area. Then the council taxpayer will foot the bill again for the clean up!"

In response to Mr Dunderdale's complaint, West Lancs Council stated: "The bulky waste service at West Lancashire Borough Council ceased because the waste collection provider could no longer provide the service on our behalf.

"We have been looking at ways in which we can continue the service and will inform residents via the council website as soon as the service becomes available again."

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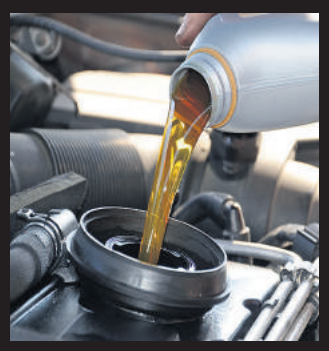

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The shortlisted authors in the Lancashire Book of the Year Award which Lathom High School pupils helped to judge

Lathom High pupils help to judge Lancashire Book of the Year award

PUPILS from Lathom High School in Skelmersdale joined fellow judges from schools throughout the county at a presentation ceremony for this year's winner of the Lancashire Book of the Year Award.

The award, organised by Lancashire County Council and sponsored for the last 17 years by the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), remains one of the few where young people themselves are totally responsible for drawing up the shortlist and choosing the overall winner.

This year's winner was Sue Wallman with her title, *See How They Lie*. After the presentation at the UCLan, she said: "I'm completely thrilled. It has been an incredible day. It is an honour to be recognised like this and what makes the award so special is that it's been decided by students.

"It's amazing to think representatives from 24 high schools across Lancashire debated my book and chose it. It has been an absolute pleasure to meet such enthusiastic young readers and I'd like to thank everyone involved in the award."

Success

The Lancashire Book of the Year was the first regional book award for children when it was originally organised in 1987. It was won that year by Philip Pullman, who went on to great success with the *His Dark Materials* trilogy.

Judges are pupils from school years 8 and 9 (aged 13 and 14) with each of Lancashire's districts represented.

A total of 63 books were nominated with a shortlist of 11 drawn up on World Book Day in March. A panel of 32 pupils then met up again in June to appraise each and debate who should be the winner.

County Councillor Peter Buckley, Lancashire's cabinet member for community and cultural services, said: "Being introduced to books at a young age is important, as it can build up a love of reading that can stay with you for the rest of your life. It's fantastic to see so many young people so actively involved in judging these awards, and clearly getting so much pleasure from books. I hope that their love of reading continues."

Skem firm named on national list of employers who have underpaid workers

Report by **Henry James**

THE Government has named Skelmersdale-based AsPro Security Services Limited on a national list of employers who have underpaid workers.

The West Lancashire company was number 33 on a list of 239 businesses who have been found to have not paid the National Living Wage or Minimum Wage to 22,400 UK workers by a total of £1.44m, HM Revenue and Customs said.

Between April 2013 and November 2017 the Skem business failed to pay a total of £5, 617.90 to 107 workers, with average arrears of £52.50 per worker.

AsPro, which is based at West Lancs Technology Centre, Moss Lane View, is a security services supplier specialising in the design, installation and maintenance of products such as CCTV.

The Minimum Wage is for people of school leaving age and the National Living Wage is for people aged 25 and over.

The top five reasons for National Minimum and Living Wage underpayments in this round were: taking deductions from wages for costs such as uniforms; underpaying apprentices; failing to pay travel time; misusing the accommodation offset; and using the wrong time periods for calculating pay.

The scheme is in its fifth year and calls out employers who have fallen foul of minimum wage laws, so far identifying £10.8m in back pay for around 90,000 workers, with more than 1,900 employers fined a total of £8.4m.

Priority

HMRC has launched a series of 'webinars', available on GOV.UK, to help employers check that they are complying with the law.

The Government is currently running a campaign to raise awareness of the National Living Wage and National Minimum Wage rates, which increased on April 1 2018, as well as encouraging workers who have been underpaid to complain to HMRC. The campaign website has had more than 600,000 visits since the campaign kicked off on April 1.

Employers who pay workers less than the minimum wage have to pay back arrears of wages to the worker at current minimum wage rates and face financial penalties of up to 200% of arrears, capped at £20,000 per worker.

Business minister, Andrew Griffiths, said: "Our priority is making sure workers know their rights and are getting the pay they worked hard for.

"Employers who don't do the right thing face fines as well as being hit with the bill for backpay.

"The UK's lowest paid workers have had the fastest wage growth in 20 years thanks to the introduction of the National Living Wage and today's list serves as a reminder to all employers to check they are getting their workers' pay right."

AsPro has been contacted for comment.

Tenants fuming over sweltering conditions at investment centre

From Page 1

provision of opening windows and measures to reduce solar gain within the building are also being explored.

"A senior officer of the council attended a meeting of tenants on June 28 and subsequently visited all the tenants individually to discuss their concerns and explain the actions being taken by the council. The council has undertaken to give tenants regular updates on the progress being made in its procurement exercise and the proposed works to the air conditioning system."

Rosie Cooper said: "I spoke to the council chief executive on Friday. She told me that a repair has been done and that the air conditioning has to be switched on daily and that took some hours on Friday.

"She also told me that now some tenants are complaining it's too cold while others are boiling and that she was unaware that the small chiller units had been removed.

"The tenants pay a lot of money to the council in rent and service charges.

"They want a refund of some of those costs because their businesses and staff have suffered because of the incompetent way this has been handled.

"The council should make arrangements to discuss this dreadful situation and a refund or rebate with all the tenants in the investment centre.

"The tenants believe the air conditioning system should be replaced and can't understand why this hasn't been done before now."

Eyecare services provider opens new facility in town

NHS eyecare service provider, SpaMedica, has opened its ninth facility offering cataract surgery, treatment for age-related macular degeneration and laser treatments in Skelmersdale.

The opening of the new site, at Whelmar House, Southway, coincides with the firm's 10th anniversary this year.

SpaMedica was founded by chief executive Anil Pitalia in 2008 and is currently the second largest provider of cataract services in the UK, performing more than 15,000 surgeries a year.

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Lancashire County Council

Road collision witness plea

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a traffic accident in Rufford which resulted in a man and a woman being detained in hospital.

Lancashire Police say the collision occurred on the A59 Liverpool Road at around 10.25pm on Friday, July 7 and involved a Toyota Auris and a MG Mark 2.

The Auris was believed to be waiting to turn right on to Croston Road while the MG was travelling in the direction of Liverpool.

The driver of the MG, a 66-year-old man from Aughton, suffered a facial injury and his 67-year-old passenger, also from Aughton, suffered chest and pelvic injuries.

They were taken to Royal Preston Hospital where they were kept in for treatment.

Police are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed the incident to come forward.

Sergeant Lee Harris from the Road Policing Unit said: "We want to speak to anyone in the area at the time who saw what happened as they may have important information that could assist with our investigation."

Anyone with information is asked to call 101.

Householders could be liable for illegally dumped waste

Environment Agency issues warning to public after change in law

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Some of the waste fly-tipped by Ian Wilson from Skelmersdale which landed him a 14-day jail sentence.

THE Environment Agency has revealed that more than a third of illegally dumped waste is from households.

And a change in the law means that householders could be held accountable, if found to be knowingly involved.

Now the regulator is urging householders in Lancashire to avoid illegal waste operators by taking extra care when it comes to disposing of rubbish.

A recent change in the law means that householders found to be knowingly involved in the illegal dumping of waste, could be liable for Landfill Tax or prosecuted alongside the actual illegal operators.

It's been found that unlicensed waste operators target householders via social media or local advertising, often luring customers with cheaper rates to dispose of unwanted furniture, building rubble or garden waste.

Andy Coleman from the Environment Agency, said: "It's crucial that anyone who produces waste at home understands their responsibilities for the waste they produce, who they allow to take it away and ultimately where it goes. Too often these responsibilities are misunderstood or ignored.

"We must all come together to win the fight against waste criminals. We're doing our part with enforcement action and prosecution, whenever necessary. But we cannot do this alone. Householders also have a responsibility to ensure their waste is collected by a responsible operator who will not pollute the environment with waste which potentially cost thousands to clear up and make safe."

It's estimated to cost the UK economy £600m every year - the equivalent of a new and fully-staffed NHS hospital.

More than 850 new illegal waste sites were discovered by the EA in 2016-17. While an average of two illegal waste sites are shut down every day, they continue to create severe problems for local communities and business, particularly in rural areas, as well as posing a risk to key national infrastructure.

To avoid contributing to waste crime, householders are advised to take the following steps:

- Check the waste management operator being used is a registered waste carrier. Registration documents should be available on request and should be inspected before services are rendered. To check environmental permits, visit www.environment.data.gov.uk/public-register, or call 03708 506506.
- Get a written receipt/transfer note complete with contact details, a description of waste removed and details of where the waste is being taken to.
- Note down the vehicle type, colour and registration number of the vehicle that's taking your waste away.
- Report suspected waste crime to the EA incident hotline 0800 807060 or anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. Alternatively, you can report it to West Lancs Council on the website www.westlancs.gov.uk/flytipping or by calling 01695 577177.

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Nurses from the Community Restart service who have been shortlisted for a prestigious award

Community Restart nurses shortlisted for leading awards

NURSES from the Lancashire NHS Community Restart Service have been shortlisted for the prestigious Nursing Times Awards which recognise, celebrate and support the achievements of the nursing community.

The restart service, which has a base at Moss Lane View, Skelmersdale, has been shortlisted in the 'Nursing in Mental Health' category for their work in providing a broad and diverse therapeutic social inclusion service for people experiencing mental ill health.

The team have been recognised for their work in promoting self-care and for providing increased opportunities within active local communities.

The service has enabled service users to have the tools to care for themselves, find more independence and improve their own quality of life.

Lisa Smith, service manager at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are delighted to have been recognised nationally for the Nursing Times Awards 2018.

"The service aim was to deliver social inclusion within the local community rather than people having to access this through traditional day services and centres. Initially, those who have always used conventional day centre provision were unhappy, many believing this approach could not be replaced within the general community.

"We now work in partnership with more than 65 organisations to deliver social inclusion for people in Lancashire and regularly receive positive service user and peer feedback about how valuable our service is to them.

"We are so pleased to have been shortlisted and are looking forward to celebrating our achievements at the awards ceremony later this year!"

Winners will be announced on Wednesday, October 31 at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London.

Ace archer Jack strikes gold again

SKELMERSDALE'S Jack Grogan overcame a slow start to strike gold again in the annual Wirral Archers tournament at New Brighton Rugby club on Sunday (July 8).

Grogan had been expected to miss the competition due to work commitments but a last-minute change of plans saw him able to take part after all.

Unfortunately the short notice meant that he was unable to practice and set his up his bow in readiness and he had to guess his sight marks.

The round was a 'Windsor' which is relatively short distances (60, 50 and 40 yards) compared to his recent competitions and the local ace lost several points early on due to adjusting his bow to the correct sight marks. As a result he was back in joint third place after two dozen arrows.

With the sight marks corrected, however, he had taken a two-point lead by the end of the third dozen arrows and at the 50 and 40-yard distances, despite having to readjust his sight marks again, he remained in the lead, distancing himself further from his nearest rival at every dozen arrows shot to pick up the gold medal again.

Jack Grogan at the Wirral Archers tournament.

Police bid to trace bin vandals

CAN you identify the people in this photo *(left)*?

Skelmersdale Police are appealing to the public to help them find the people featured in this CCTV image.

At approximately 7.55pm on Saturday, June 30 three people were seen pushing an industrial waste bin away from the rear of a shop on Digmoor Parade.

The bin was found later that night underneath the footbridge a short distance away. It had been set on fire and melted near to Bishop Martin School.

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police said: "We would like help in identifying these individuals, so that they can help with our enquiries. Please call us on 101 if you have any information quoting Log LC-20180701-0565."

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Blind pensioner struck off podiatry register for missing *one* appointment

Report by **Kenny Parker**

THE son of an 81-year-old blind man from Ormskirk says his dad was 'struck off' a register for podiatry services by Virgin Care after missing just one appointment due to sickness.

Paul Price, from County Road, claims that the provider also had no record of most of the pensioner's previous visits to the clinic in Hants Lane, despite him being treated there regularly for three years.

Ernest Price and son Paul.

And although his dad Ernest was later reinstated he was told he would have to wait six weeks before making an appointment, in which time Paul feared his condition might worsen.

Virgin Care, which was awarded the contract to provide the podiatry services last year, as part of West Lancashire Community Services, says patients are clearly warned that they will be removed from registers if they miss an appointment. It also denied that patient records had gone missing.

Paul's father Ernest, who has been blind for four years due to age-related macular degeneration, also suffers from diabetes and had been attending the clinic as a result of problems with his feet arising from the condition. On his last visit he was told he needed to be seen more often and an appointment was made for Monday, June 25 but Ernest was unable to attend for medical reasons.

Paul said: "Unfortunately we missed that appointment due to dad having nose bleeds that ultimately required an ambulance trip to Southport Hospital. My brother called up to Hants Lane on the Tuesday afternoon to explain but we were told that dad had been taken off the podiatry register.

"The next day dad received a letter confirming this and we went to find out what was going on. I was told that the only computer record they had on their system was an entry from June 2015, when he first attended, and then the appointment for Monday, June 25. The intervening records had all apparently gone missing.

"After explaining dad's medical condition numerous times he was finally reinstated but no appointment could be made and I was told we would have to phone in six weeks to make one."

A spokesperson for West Lancashire Community Services said: "The community podiatry service in West Lancashire has always had a well-advertised policy that patients who do not attend without cancelling their appointment in advance will be discharged from the service. However, there will always be occasions, such as in an emergency, where discretion is appropriate and a second appointment will, of course, be offered.

"Following patient feedback since we took on the service, we are in the process of introducing a four-week 'grace period' across all of the community outpatients services for patients who have missed just one appointment.

"All patient records were transferred safely and securely during the transfer of services to Virgin Care so that care continued uninterrupted. There were no issues identified, so all records of previous visits and appointments remain available."

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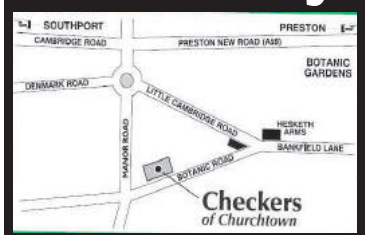

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Youngsters tackle national enterprise challenge with chance to boost school funds

Report by **Henry James**

Two of the Crow Orchard Primary pupils who took part in the National Fiver Challenge

PUPILS at Crow Orchard Primary School are taking part in a national scheme aimed at giving them an insight into the world of work and an opportunity to boost school funds.

The school in School Lane is one of the few in the borough to enter the Fiver Challenge - a highly interactive, fun way of introducing financial education and enterprise to primary school pupils as they aim to make as much profit as possible from £5 in four weeks.

During the four weeks pupils use £5 pledges to get their business ideas off the ground and aim to make as much profit as they can.

Delighted

At Crow Orchard, eight children aged between nine and 11 years of age, had to think-tank ideas from the whole school as to what type of business would work best.

Then they had to narrow it down to one item and research what would sell, eventually coming up with a healthy and economical 'Snack Shack.'

Lesley Jones, school council and pupil parliament co-ordinator, said: "Both parents and children are delighted with their efforts as is the whole school and we now have a successful platform on which to provide whole school funds - and you never know, we might just win!"

Up Holland pupils score their own World Cup triumph

SPORTY pupils from St Thomas the Martyr CE Primary School in Up Holland were really on the ball when they competed in a football tournament for Key Stage 1 children to celebrate the World Cup.

A total of 21 schools from across West Lancashire took part, divided into three groups, and the team from the school in Highgate Road topped their American Nations group after finishing the day undefeated.

The tournament was run by SHARES and the West Lancashire Sports Partnership and the Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Noel Delaney, present the awards at the JMO in Skelmersdale.

Headteacher at St Thomas the Martyr, Mr Roscoe, said: "All of the teams played in the right spirit with respect and enthusiasm. I am proud of our team's achievement and was impressed with the great sportsmanship of all involved."

Some of the St Thomas the Martyr pupils with their medals

Divine Dancers' Empathy Day performance was a tear-jerker

MEMBERS of Divine Dance, part of the Divine Days Community Arts CIC, performed at Skelmersdale Library to mark Empathy Day.

The community event, saw Divine Days Community Arts - a non-profit organisation set up to make the arts accessible to all offering a wide range of inclusive activities - provide workshops for schoolchildren and the public.

Divine Dance is made up of dancers with additional needs who tour the North West raising awareness of inclusion and acceptance in schools and community venues.

Katie Whitehead, the founder of Divine Days Community Arts CIC, said: "The manager of the library said that there wasn't a dry eye in the house and she couldn't think of a more fitting way to celebrate Empathy Day with such a powerful message."

Divine Dance also visited West Lancashire Community High School for children with learning difficulties where they carried out a workshop with the children, culminating in a collaborative performance.

Katie added: "One of the teachers said it was amazing to watch the children interact and respond to the music."

Members of Divine Dance who performed at Skelmersdale Library to mark Empathy Day.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

WWT

Martin Mere news

Get a glimpse of WWT Martin Mere's reserve at night in special events this August

Popular Bat and Barn Owl nights return to WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre this summer. Every Friday in August (10th, 17th, 24th & 31st) join our reserve team and bat expert for this unique experience.

The evening starts at 8pm until 11pm, with a walk out on the Marsh to search for barn owls as they hunt across the reserve. When the sun goes down, a local bat expert will teach you how to use bat detectors to track these fascinating flying mammals as you venture back to the building, getting a glimpse of the creatures that come out after dark on the reserve.

Through surveys, Martin Mere has identified the presence of five different bat species using the site including; Soprano Pipistrelle, Common pipistrelle, Noclule, Daubentons and Brown Long eared Bats. The specialist detectors are designed to amplify the sound of bats so that you can identify where they are and get a better look at them.

You will be led over rough terrain in areas that are usually out of bounds to the public and the distance covered is approximately three miles. You are advised to dress warmly, with appropriate footwear for the outdoors.

Reserve Manager Tom Clare said: "The Bat and Barn Owl nights, provide a unique opportunity to search for barn owls in the wild and use a bat detector to hear enchanting bat sounds. Early evening is a great time to spot barn owls hunting over the reserve and the bat walks are a fascinating experience."

Tickets are £14 per person. Places are limited for this experience and must be booked in advance. Book online today by visiting wwt.org.uk/martinmere and clicking on events.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 6pm and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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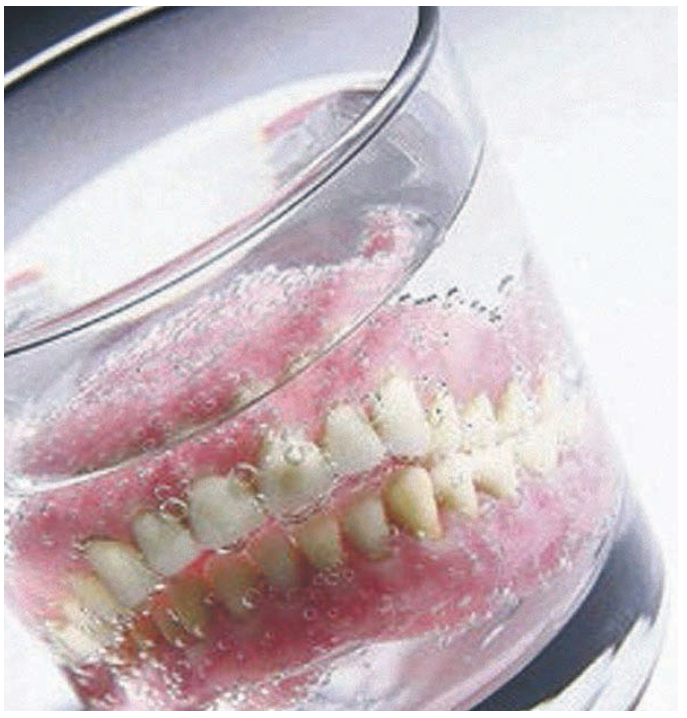

• There is an alternative to wearing dentures

He said: "Having missing teeth can have a social and functional impact, but here at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa we aim to address this for our patients by providing same-day fixed teeth."

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• Dr Marius McGovern, clinical director at Liverpool Implant and Aesthetic Dental Spa

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Health commissioners launch pilot scheme to support care home residents in hospital

Report by **Henry James**

Dr John Caine

THE NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group is introducing what it describes as "an innovative" new 'red bag' pilot scheme to help support care home residents when admitted to hospital.

The bags, which contain key paperwork, medication and personal items like glasses, slippers and dentures, are handed to ambulance crews by carers and travel with patients to hospital where they are then handed to the doctor.

As well as giving reassurance to patients, the aim is to provide hospital staff with quick, up-to-date information and medication requirements for the patient, avoiding unnecessary phone calls.

John Caine, a local GP in West Lancashire and chair at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "This is an example of where a joined-up approach is helping to improve patient care and speed up a stay in hospital for all the right reasons.

"Sometimes it's the personal touch that makes a big difference to patients, especially if they're elderly, and the red bag helps people feel reassured and more at home. "

In West Lancashire, the pilot will initially launch this month at the Cleveland House Care Home in Banks and the target is for a full roll-out across the region by September.

Mike Maguire, chief officer at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "Nationally, there are half a million more people aged over 75 than there were in 2010 and there will be two million more in 10 years' time. They are also spending more years in ill-health than ever before.

"This scheme is a great example of how the NHS is integrating care and working in partnership with social care, to ensure that our elderly patients will only have to tell their story once."

Ambulance staff's birthday treat

AMBULANCE staff have been treated to speciallly-designed cup cakes as part of NHS's 70th birthday celebrations.

Some 5,000 cakes were delivered to staff at 70 locations throughout the North West, including Burscough and Skelmersdale.

The celebration cakes were designed by a staff member following a competition and featured NHS and North West Ambulance Service colours and the NHS70 logo on a sponge and butter cream creation.

In addition to ambulance stations and 999 call centres, the cakes were delivered to workshops, corporate departments, patient transport service bases and 111 call centres.

The special birthday treat was funded by NWAS Charitable Funds, which is made up of donations from patients and their family and friends, to spend on NWAS staff.

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More strike action on Northern Rail

Union calls further 24-hour stoppage as dispute over future role of guards on trains drags on

Report by **Henry James**

Rail union RMT has called a further 24-hour strike

OFFICIALS of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union have called further strike action for Saturday (July 21) on services in the region in the ongoing dispute over the role of guards on trains.

There will be more disruption to Northern Rail services with conductor, conductor instructor and train driver members of the union being instructed to take action for 24 hours.

RMT General Secretary, Mick Cash, said: "It is a tribute to the determination and professionalism of RMT members on Northern that they have remained rock solid for over a year now in what is a battle to put public safety before private profit. The next phase of action will take place two weeks on Saturday as the company refuse point blank to engage in talks.

"RMT is angry and frustrated that while we are making some progress in discussions in similar safety disputes, Northern refuse point blank to engage with the union in any meaningful fashion. That is a disgrace and speaks volumes about the attitude of this company.

"German-owned Northern want to run nearly half a million trains a year without a safety critical guard on board in a move that would wreck both safety and access to services and they should listen to their front-line staff and pull back from that plan immediately.

"We have seen repeatedly in recent weeks that Arriva are not capable of running a railway and have chosen to declare war on passengers and staff alike in the drive for increased profits while safety, access and reliability are left to rot.

"RMT has agreed arrangements in Wales and Scotland that enshrine the guard guarantee. If it's good enough for Wales and Scotland to have safe rail services it should be good enough for the rest of Britain.

"We thank the public for their support and understanding throughout this dispute over rail safety and access and the union remains ready for talks."

A statement on the Northern website reads: "On strike days Northern is only able to operate a limited service. We ask our customers to carefully consider whether their journey is necessary on these days.

"Northern has embarked on a programme to modernise services that will help make the North a better place in which to live and work. To bring our improvements to life, we are proposing changes to modernise the conductor role to give you a better service. We are clear there will be no job or pay cuts as a result of our proposed changes."

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Bumper response to village scarecrow festival fundraiser for a trio of local good causes

MORE than 100 entries have been received for the new Burscough Scarecrow Festival being held on Saturday and Sunday, July 14 and 15 to raise money for three local good causes.

Organiser Julie Woods said she expected at most 30 when she advertised the event on social media but was staggered by the response.

Prizes

Creations include Gangsta Granny, Bart Simpson, a nurse and a patient from Stocks Hall Nursing Home and an effigy of controversial US president Donald Trump!

Maps of where the scarecrows are placed will be available for £1 from Infusions Cafe Bistro on Orrell Lane, Booths store cafe at the Ringtail Retail park, and Creative Kitchen Design at the Old Post Office Building.

Households were charged £5 to enter a scarecrow, with businesses charged £10. All proceeds from the event, including the maps, will go to the Alfie Lund Fund, Lifting Louis, and Steps for Sienna, for local youngsters with serious health conditions.

The best scarecrows in both household and business categories will win prizes with judging by West Lancs MP, Rosie Cooper MP, Michael Dawson, founder of history group Images of Burscough, and borough Councillor Andrew Pritchard.

The Donald Trump scarecrow entered in the festival.

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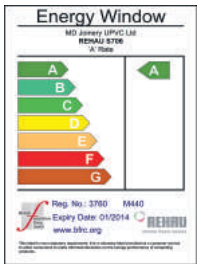

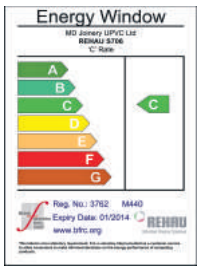

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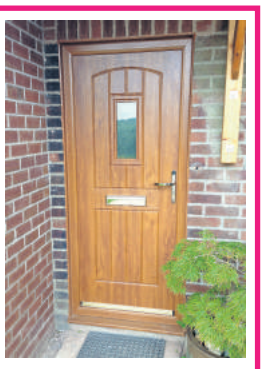

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Sun shines on carnival

THE recent spell of hot, sunny weather has proved a blessing for local fairs and festivals and this year's Westhead Carnival was no exception.

Events in the annual celebrations kicked off with a car boot sale on Thursday, July 5, followed by a fancy dress ball on the Friday with the theme of 'something beginning with C.'

Then it was on to the main event and the carnival procession starting at 12.30pm on the Saturday, the official opening by the Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancs, Councillor Noel Delaney and Mrs Ann Stubert, and the crowning of this year's Carnival Queen.

And to round things off St James Church held a Carnival Praise service on the field on the Sunday morning.

Westhead Carnival Queen elect, Jessica en route to Saturday's crowning ceremony.

The carnival parade featured many colourful participants including these young Ghostbusters-themed entrants

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

It's about time for 'forgotten' Skelmersdale to pull out of West Lancs and become self-governing

WELL, wonders will never cease.

Finding myself amazed by the front page headline in the Skelmersdale Champion July 4) when reading the report concerning the possibility of a new hospital being built somewhere between Ormskirk and Southport.

Yet again the needs of the people of Skelmersdale are seemingly being ignored.

Where do we come in this great scenario?

Why not a new hospital in Skelmersdale? We're a town of approximately 40,000 people and yet in the great scheme of things it seems we are being totally overlooked once more.

I believe while we are part of this politically-conceived area of West Lancashire the town will never grow and reach its true potential.

The council may be known as West Lancashire Borough Council, but this authority was born out of Ormskirk Council and its seat of power still remains in Ormskirk.

It was in the Champion newspaper, a fair while ago now, that a councillor was boasting how Ormskirk was the 'capital' of West Lancashire. Well, this non-councillor says it's about time Skelmersdale pulled out of West Lancashire and be allowed to govern itself.

However, I am realistic enough to know this will never happen in my lifetime, if ever.

Skelmersdale is the forgotten town.

Bill Clarke, by email

In Canada they can run a city with NINE councillors and no party politics!

PREVIOUS correspondents have raised the question of the number of councillors for West Lancashire.

I have a relative in Canada who is the equivalent of a Town Clerk for a city in British Columbia and when I told him how many councillors we have he said: 'What do they all do?' (I resisted the urge to say 'very little'!)

The city he works for, in addition to the usual responsibilities, also has a large, four-lane bridge and an international airport to administer.

It has nine - yes NINE - councillors!

Municipalities in Canada have the option not to operate a ward system as we have here in the UK.

The candidates stand as individuals, not as representatives of political parties, and the council is not aligned to any political party.

In effect, the voters elect a board of directors to run the city, with the mayor as the chairman.

When the canvassers call during our local elections I raise the question of what party politics has got to do with local government, as its adversarial nature just seems to get in the way.

The response is often 'a system of local government without party politics wouldn't work.'

Seems to work in Canada.

R. J., Westhead.

'Masterplan session' was more like a fait accompli than a forum for discussion

I'VE just been to the 'Tarleton Masterplan session' and was puzzled and disappointed by the Acland Bracewell presentation.

Rather than presenting the proposals to a seated audience with the rationale for the plans explained, with proper question and answer sessions and attempts made to calm any concerns, we were greeted by a fait accompli, a slick, corporate display of what seemed to have been already determined.

I looked in vain for local councillors to discuss the proposals with. They may have been present but were not introduced.

What I did come away with was an impression that the proposals - and let's be clear that's what they are at this stage - are going to impact negatively on every aspect of the local community, be that, infrastructure, environment, including the areas of important natural history, and wildlife.

I shall be objecting on those grounds and I expect local and county councillors to be a little more forthcoming, open and honest about their involvement in the near future.

Paul Davenport, by email

PICTURE of the week

Greetings from Southport: Summer sunshine, blue skies, a crowded beach and colourful funfair - all the ingredients to conjure up the image of a timeless traditional seaside resort. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Fast food firms should help with litter clean-up

I CAN'T help but notice how much cleaner the town in general has been since a certain fast food restaurant has been closed. Does it really have to reopen?

I think all the fast food restaurants should pay extra council tax to pay towards the clean up or employ litter pickers. It's disgusting the mess that's made all over the town, something needs to be done.

And while I'm on the subject, could we have some litter bins between New Church Farm and the Concourse? The pavements are getting pretty full!

J.B., by email

Drop us a line

IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

■ PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors.

Have a tea party and help raise funds for Breast Cancer Care

AT Breast Cancer Care, we were devastated to have made the tough decision to reduce our Helpline opening hours earlier this year to make savings, a decision we didn't take lightly.

As the UK's only specialist breast cancer support charity, we are here to provide care to anyone who needs it. We saw this more than ever when we faced a huge surge of calls following the recent reports about an IT error which meant that many women in England were not sent their final routine invitation for breast screening.

We are working hard to make sure that the Helpline stays available to everyone who needs us so we can continue to provide vital support for free, but we can't do it without your help.

You can support Breast Cancer Care by having an Afternoon Tea to raise money this July. Simply choose a date and invite friends and family round to enjoy a cuppa with some tasty sandwiches and treats. Breast Cancer Care will provide you with a free kit with everything you need to plan your tea.

All money raised will enable the charity to continue to be there for the 691,000 people living with breast cancer in the UK today, and it's essential that these services remain free. Breast Cancer Care is not Government-funded so every penny that you raise makes a huge difference.

Order your free fundraising kit at www.breastcancercare.org.uk/cuppa or call 0300 100 4442.

Samia al Qadhi,
chief executive, Breast Cancer Care.

Where was the 'local democracy' when it came to the Yew Tree Farm development?

WITH reference to the story headed 'Developers' appeal over Burscough homes plan rejected' (Champion, June 20) about the refusal of the appeal to build on land to the north of Meadowbrook.

This was too late for Rawlinson's farm and outbuildings, knocked down to make way for Meadowbrook.

Rawlinson's farm was a character building, stone-washed white with a cobbled yard - another piece of Burscough history gone.

As for the 'victory for local democracy', what about the Yew Tree Farm development voted against by a near 100 per cent?

Where's your democracy there?

Thomas Heath, Burscough

Subsidised bus services are the answer for remote communities

FIRST an apology for the non-appearance of the column last week. It wasn't my fault - honest!

I went down to Norfolk for a two-week break on my trusty old cruiser, *Manxman*, but through no fault of my own I was marooned for a further week.

Still, on my first day back last week I switched on the TV to look in on the *Daily Politics* to see what, if anything, was new. And since it was Wednesday there was the usual extended version covering Prime Minister's Questions.

What was unusual was that Jeremy Corbyn chose as his principal subject for attack, not, as is normal these days, either the state of the NHS or our problems with Brexit, but a subject close to my heart - buses!

Basically the would-be PM was asking the present incumbent, Theresa May, what she had to say about the falling numbers of folk using the buses and the fact that bus fares have risen considerably higher than inflation.

Ms May never really seemed to get to grips with this, waffling on about how local councils have it in their power to provide services where they are necessary, obviously inviting a retort that her Government had cut the amount of money said councils have to spend.

In fact, both seemed generally to be missing the point - and Corbyn missing a great opportunity. He didn't give a real solution to this problem either. He didn't even suggest bringing the buses back into public ownership and at least we can be thankful for that.

What he didn't really go into in any detail about at all was the fact that many rural communities are now effectively cut off for those without access to a motor car. Indeed, he seemed to be implying that the problem was that those unfortunate people had stopped using buses because they couldn't afford the high fares.

Trouble is, that's not the point. The obvious reason is that most folk now have a motor vehicle. In my own neck of the woods I know that the bus network has shrunk over the course of the years, but oddly it is on my sojourns to Norfolk that I have noticed this most.

Just a few years ago I could travel to Norwich and on to Wroxham by train from Liverpool. And from there to where *Manxman* was then moored there was a bus every hour, running from Norwich to Great Yarmouth.

The last time I tried to get to Potter Heigham (where the boatyard was) I found this bus had been withdrawn totally. The only way I might be able to get to this village was to use the school bus but it would only take me to Potter Heigham IF a school child who was aboard wanted to go there. None did, so I had to walk the last two miles.

Throughout rural Norfolk and Suffolk the problem is the same. On my last holiday evening I walked the dogs from where we were moored into the picturesque village of Barton. There was a lovely wooden bus shelter near the village green and I popped into have a look at the timetable.

Apparently some enterprising locals have arranged a minibus which connects with a 'real' bus service some distance away. It was a bit difficult to work out what and when, but basically I think that the only service each weekday would give you two hours in town to do your shopping and if you if you missed the bus back it would be a taxi ride then I suppose.

The only answer is for bus services to remote communities to be subsidised. I think central Government should foot the bill. But if not, then yes, local councils must. If not, our rural villages will become havens only for car-owning families with no local shops or pubs - if they haven't already.

Rose Queen Day raises £3,000 for village primary schools

ORGANISERS of the Tarleton Rose Queen Day have thanked generous local businesses and growers who helped them raise more than £3,000 for Mere Brow and Holy Trinity primary schools.

This year's event featured the Hesketh Bank Silver Band, face painting, games and an antique tractor which provided photo opportunities.

Money was raised by adult admission fees, stalls selling fresh produce donated by local businesses, growers and nurseries and a barbeque. There was also a raffle for which local business contributed prizes.

Secretary of the organising committee, Janet Lynd, said: "It was a "fabulous day enjoyed by children and adults alike. Most of the shops and businesses around made donations and we could not do it without them.

"It is the generosity of local people and local business which enables us to raise money for the two primary schools year in year out. "

Janet said that children from the schools had written to the committee to express their thanks for money they had received from previous Rose Queen Day events.

These had been used to fund a variety of things including play and educational equipment, science projects, Christmas parties, a camera, a wigwam and bean bags for reading corners.

This year's Rose Queen is 12-year-old Rosie Samuels, a pupil at Bishop Rawstorne Church of England Academy in Croston who will be raising money for pancreatic cancer.

She succeeds fellow pupil Madison Oettinger who raised £1,100 for the children's ward at the Royal Preston Hospital.

Rose Queen Rosie Samuels and her attendants at the crowning ceremony.

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Super slimmer Dave's a winner when it comes to losing!

DAVE Whalley is a shadow of his former self - and he couldn't be happier!

For the 48-year-old from Ormskirk has shed more than eight stones to be named his local Slimming World group 'Man of the year 2018.'

He said: "I feel like a new man since losing the weight - in fact, I look so different some people I haven't seen for a while can't believe I'm the same person!"

Dave, who joined Slimming World in September 2016, added: "I was really unhappy and unhealthy - my mobility was limited and I was on medication for high blood pressure.

"I was quite apprehensive about joining the group but I got an amazingly warm and friendly welcome from my consultant and all the members."

After following the club's food optimising eating plan, Dave was both surprised and delighted by the result.

"I love food and it's never once felt like I was on a diet. I still enjoy all my favourite meals like curries and cooked breakfasts but I've learned how to make small changes like using lean meat or cooking with low calorie spread instead of oil or butter.

Incredible

Having lost a total of eight stone five pounds and shrunk seven clothes sizes, he is now down to a weight he hasn't been for many years.

"From struggling to tie my shoe laces, I am now a member of a local gym and am even doing the 'Couch to 5k. I really do feel, look and act like a different man."

Slimming World consultant, Tina, said: "The changes we've seen in Dave are incredible and I hope his success will inspire others who'd like to lose weight by forming new lifestyle habits and become happier and healthier, to take action."

Dave Whalley before (left) and after (right) losing 8st 5lbs in weight

'A Day at the Races' theme for village show

THE theme for this year's Parbold Village Show is 'A Day at the Races' and the event will feature a hobby-horse race that the whole village can get involved with.

Organised by the Parbold Festival Committee in association with the local parish council, the show will take place on the Alder Lane playing fields from 1 to 5pm on Saturday, July 14.

The hobby horse race will have categories for primary and secondary school children and also adults, if enough wish to take part.

For those who prefer the 'real thing' however, donkey rides will also be available.

Other attractions will include a Punch and Judy show, a bouncy assault course and slot-car racing provided by Skelmersdale's Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College in the main marquee, while there will be a separate marquee to show art, craft and produce.

Performing at the show, which typically attracts crowds of around 4,000, will be the Old Hall Brass band from Appley Bridge. Also featured will be a dance competition for local schools.

Admission is £3 for adults, accompanied children go free.

Meanwhile tickets are still available for a barn dance to be held in the main marquee on Friday, July 13 from 7pm. The cost is £15, including a buffet. Those attending can take their own drinks but a bar will be available. To order tickets ring 01257 463772.

Rose with her winning entry.

Rose strikes right note with festival mascot design

A DESIGN created by a pupil of Our Lady and All Saints RC Primary School, Parbold, has been chosen from a host of entries to be the mascot for this year's Parbulele ukulele festival.

Now in its third year, the annual event will run from Friday to Sunday, August 3 to 5.

After the success of last year's competition for local primary pupils to create a Mr Parbulele, this year's challenge saw youngsters tasked with finding him a Mrs Parbulele!

And the winning design, chosen by local professional ukulele artist, Andrea Cooke for her "fresh approach", was 10-year-old Rose Jackson who received a £50 gift voucher from Unique Ukes at Blackstone Music, Chorley.

Festival organiser, Gary Smith suggested Andrea might well have been thinking, 'will I look good in this?' when making her choice as she will be wearing an outfit based on the design during the event!

Runners-up were Amelie Worsley of Parbold Douglas, Vinny Walsh of Appley Bridge All Saints, and Annabel Costello of Newburgh.

All the finalists received a ukulele and each of the runners-up received a £10 gift voucher for the music store from community organisation, Parbold Unlimited. The winners of each school class that entered also receive a £5 gift voucher.

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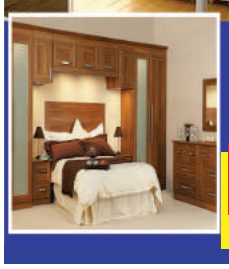

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Sporty pupils shine at county games finals

YOUNGSTERS from schools across West Lancashire did the borough proud at this year's SPAR Lancashire School Games County finals, clinching three medals and finishing in third place overall.

More than 2,000 pupils from 15 districts competed in glorious sunshine at Blackpool's Stanley Park in a bid to be crowned county champions in 16 sports following months of qualifying competitions.

And Team West Lancashire impressed winning gold, silver and bronze medals.

Burscough Priory Science College pupils struck gold in the Year7/8 duathlon event; Aughton Town Green Primary took silver in the quad kids athletics; and St Bede's Catholic High School caught the judges' eye with their map-reading skills and navigated their way to a bronze medal in the mainstream inclusive orienteering event.

The Burscough Priory Science College team who won gold in the Year 7 and 8 duathlon.

'Fantastic'

Team West Lancashire came in at an overall third place out of 16 on the day, with a total of 167 points - just 17 points behind Chorley who were crowned overall county champions for the second year running.

Now in its 12th year, the SPAR Lancashire School Games is organised by Active Lancashire, implemented by the county's school games organisers and sponsored by James Hall & Company Ltd, SPAR distributors for the North of England and comprises a series of inclusive sporting events that provide competitive and participative opportunities for all schoolchildren across Lancashire.

Peter Dodding, sales and marketing director at James Hall & Company Ltd, said: "It's fantastic to be able to support and be part of the biggest youth sporting event in Lancashire. I'd like to personally congratulate all those who took part and most importantly had fun throughout the day."

Chris Hart, school games organiser for West Lancashire, said: "As always, the county finals event was a huge success and it was fantastic to see youngsters from across the district getting in the team spirit at each sporting event.

"Congratulations to everyone who took part and a huge well done to West Lancashire area pupils for making everyone in the district proud.

"I'd finally like to thank the young leaders and all the volunteers who were on hand to support not just the county finals but during the level two events throughout the academic year - without this support the SPAR Lancashire School Games would not be possible."

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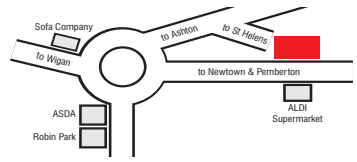

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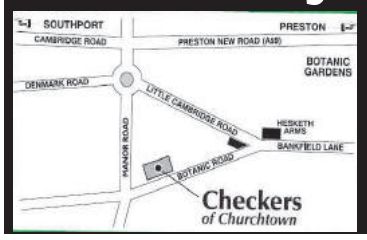

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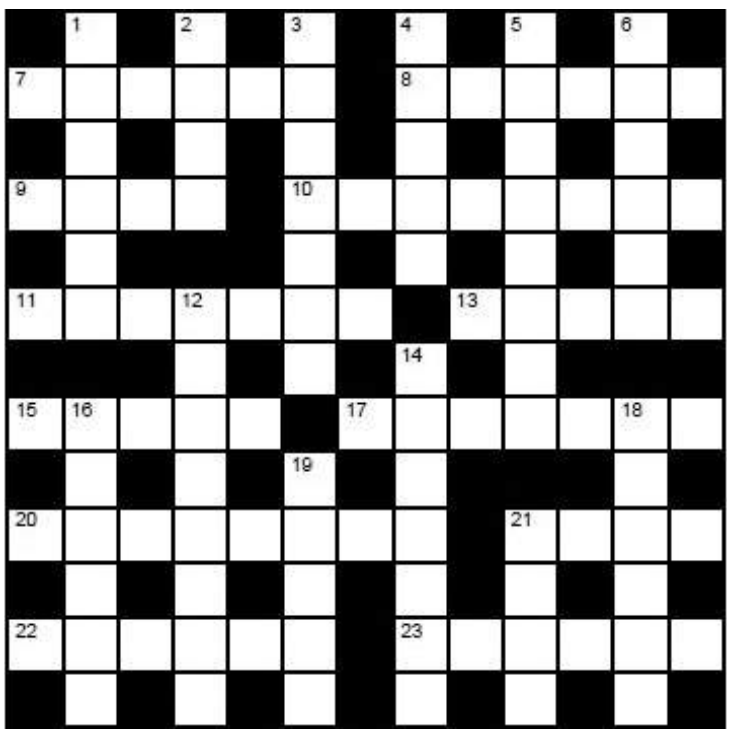

Last week's solutions:
Across: 7. Visual. 8. Teapot. 9. Dodo. 10. Minority. 11. Namibia. 13. Stomp. 15. Adage. 16. Canasta. 18. Organism. 19. Heat. 21 Mayhem. 22. Noodle.
Down: 1. Ciao. 2. Autobiography. 3. Old maid. 4. Stink. 5. Parrot fashion. 6. Contempt. 12. Alderman. 14. Payment. 17. Gizmo. 20 Axle.

ACROSS

7. Separate (6)
8. Move in an energetic and busy manner (6)
9. Daze, astound (4)
10. Incapacity resulting from a cerebral haemorrhage or stroke (8)
11. With great skill (7)
13. Unsmiling, poker-faced (5)
15. Turn (something) upside down (5)
17. Exterior, not inside (7)
20. International sporting event held every four years (8)
21. Assignment (4)
22. Penetrate (6)
23. Cause to become entangled in something (6)

DOWN

1. Suggested (6)
2. King of the jungle? (4)
3. Failure to fulfil an obligation (7)
4. Regard with disgust and hatred (5)
5. Remote (8)
6. A magical or medicinal potion (6)
12. The partially shaded outer region of the shadow cast by an opaque object (8)
14. Province in South West Ireland (7)
16. Raised enclosed platform in a church from which sermons are delivered (6)
18. Preoccupy or fill the mind of (someone) continually (6)
19. Person who walks for long distances, especially across country (5)
21. A book, especially a large, heavy, scholarly one (4)

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Triple treat in store for lovers of the Bard

University arts centre to host live productions of three Shakespeare plays

SHAKESPEARE fans can experience three different productions of the Bard's work live in Ormskirk this month, at The Arts Centre at Edge Hill University.

The drama starts on Wednesday evening (July 18) with a live theatre screening of *Romeo and Juliet* from RSC Live.

Set in a world like our own, this production is about a generation of young people born into violence and ripped apart by the bitter divisions of their parents.

The most famous story of love at first sight explodes with passion and an irresistible desire for change, but leads all too quickly to heartbreaking consequences.

Theatre-lovers enjoying a previous performance by Illryia in Edge Hill's Rock Garden

Meanwhile on Saturday, July 21 there will be both matinee and evening performances of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by the Arts Centre's own Rose Youth Theatre.

Fresh approach

Preparations are under way for the wedding of Theseus, Duke of Athens, and his bride the Warrior Queen Hippolyta, but wedding planner Sebastian has more problems with the guests than the happy couple - including a rift in the underworld, in-fighting among the entertainers and a mischievous sprite to contend with.

The Rose Youth Theatre senior members present a fun-loving, modern English version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Geoff Bamber featuring a few musical twists with some hilarious moments. This new-generation performance is based on the classical Shakespearean play with all the much-loved characters but with a fresh, contemporary approach.

And on Sunday afternoon July 22 the annual Open Air Theatre performance in Edge Hill's beautiful Rock Garden this year features *The Merchant of Venice* by award-winning open-air theatre company, Illyria.

This is a funny play dealing with serious issues.

Shakespeare's great courtroom drama is by turns gripping, funny, romantic and thought-provoking.

For further details about performances and tickets etc. visit the website at https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/artscentre/.

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Olivia Williams discusses students' mental health with BBC Breakfast's Steph McGovern and Naga Munchetty.

Edge Hill student's TV bid to raise awareness of mental health issues

AN Edge Hill University student has appeared on national TV to discuss the impact of mental health issues on students.

It follows the release of data from the Office for National Statistics which shows that student suicide rates have risen by more than a fifth since a decade ago.

Edge Hill Students' Union's Student Minds Society was set up with the aim of raising awareness of issues, giving support to fellow struggling students, and removing the stigma attached to mental health.

The society's president, Olivia Williams, went on BBC TV's breakfast programme to talk about the help students receive from the union, which offers a confidential advice centre and also has a network of officers and reps providing peer-to-peer support and a point of contact for those in need.

She also discussed her own battle with mental health issues at university, stating, "Mental health is not going to go away overnight, it's a constant battle. My lecturers were amazing, really understanding. We're lucky that we have got a students' union at Edge Hill that wants to improve the mental health of students. The union wants to work alongside Edge Hill to create a mental health-friendly campus."

Edge Hill Students' Union's vice-president for welfare, Rosie McKenna, said, "There's a desperate need for a holistic, institution-wide approach to tackling the mental health crisis on campuses. I'm immensely proud of the work we've done this year on mental health, but there's so much further to go."

MP meets local NHS campaigners

ROSIE Cooper has met with local members of the national campaign group 38 Degrees to discuss calls for increased Government funding for the health service.

The West Lancs MP told Eric Knowles, Malcolm Duncan and John Shepherd - from Aughton, Burscough, and Scarisbrick respectively - that she shared concerns about the "underfinding" of the NHS and was committed to pressing ministers on the subject.

She said; "It was a pleasure to meet with the local NHS campaigners to discuss the national picture, as well as the damage this underfunding by the Government causes to our local services and how we must continue to campaign and defend our NHS together.

"After eight years of the biggest financial squeeze in its history, the Government has refused time and again to give our health service the funding it requires and patients are paying the price."

Eric Knowles said: "We were delighted that Rosie was able to make the time to meet with us and assure us of her backing for increased NHS funding and demonstrate this through her record of action and her detailed understanding of the complexities of the NHS."

Village summer fair in aid of church funds

BIRDS of prey displays and an antique agricultural display will be among the attractions at this year's Bickerstaffe summer fair on Saturday, July 14.

Running from 2 to 4pm on the Parish Field at Hall Lane, it will also feature stalls selling cakes, plants, fancy goods, books, and more, along with face painting, tombola and a grand raffle.

Prizes in the raffle include tickets for two Virgin Trains standard return tickets for travel between any two stations on the West Coast Main Line route; wine; a Booths voucher; a Vintage Inns voucher; a Derby Arms voucher; and much more

Helpers welcome

All proceeds from the day will go to the village's Holy Trinity Church.

Church warden at Holy Trinity, Edward McCarthy, said anyone interested in helping to set up the event would be welcome and should arrive at 9am on the day.

In the unlikely event of rain, the fair will be held in the barn at Bickerstaffe Hall Stable Yard.

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Search is on for county's business whizz-kids

A COUNTY-wide awards scheme for young people in business is back with new categories, more networking opportunities and an all-new mentoring programme for the winners.

The Sub36 Awards 2018, which recognise the best of Lancashire's young business talent, is now open for entries.

The annual event, organised by Lancashire Business View magazine, has swapped sit-down-dinners for socialising and networking over street food, and introduced innovative prizes including growth mentoring from established local businesses.

The new-style competition was introduced when the organisers rebranded the project from Young 'Uns to Sub36, demonstrating the focus on those aged 36 years and under making things happen in business across the red rose county.

Two new categories have been added in 2018, ensuring stars of the creative industries and professional services sector making their mark in accountancy, law, marketing, property and more get their due recognition.

And all winners will now be granted exclusive access to a bespoke mentoring programme with Community & Business Partners who deliver the Northern Mentoring Programme. Each winner of the awards will be matched with a suitable mentor from the awards sponsors to help their future development.

Last year's Sub36 Award winners

Hard-working employees and inspirational business owners alike have until September 3 to submit nominations across 11 categories. Employers may nominate staff on their behalf.

Four shortlisted individuals from each category will then meet with the judging panel to showcase their achievements before winners are announced on October 18 at a ceremony at Blackpool's Winter Gardens.

Richard Slater, publisher of Lancashire Business View and organiser of the awards, said: "The Sub36 Awards bring the county together to celebrate the best of the best and we're very excited about the changes we've made for 2018.

"We know the mentoring programme will be popular and we look forward to working with Community and Business Partners to deliver it."

Entries are now open for the following categories at sub36.co.uk – Apprentice Award; Creative Award (new for 2018); Customer Champion Award; Employee of the Year Award; Entrepreneur of the Year Award; Innovator Award; Leader Award; New Business Award; Young Lancastrian of the Year Award; and Young Professional Award (new for 2018).

There is also The Sub36 Award which is chosen by the Lancashire Business View team and could be won by any of the finalists.

Entries close at midnight, Monday, September 3 with finalists announced on Friday, September 14.

Interviews will be held on Thursday, September 27 and the awards evening will be Thursday, October 18.

Entrants must be aged under 36 on October 18, 2018.

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Trial of Hillsborough match commander put back

THE trial of the Hillsborough match commander David Duckenfield (left), who is accused of the manslaughter of 95 Liverpool fans, originally listed to start on September 10, has now been put back to January 14 next year.

It was confirmed on Friday, June 29 that the 73-year-old former chief superintendent would be prosecuted after High Court judge, Sir Peter Openshaw, lifted an 18-year 'stay' on his prosecution at a hearing at Preston Crown Court.

The disaster at the 1989 FA Cup semi-final between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest at Sheffield Wednesday's ground resulted in the death of 96 Liverpool supporters who were crushed due to overcrowding.

However, under the law at the time, there can be no prosecution for the death of the 96th victim, Tony Bland, because he died more than a year and a day after his injuries were caused.

Adjourned

Four other men will also face trial on charges related to the tragic incident.

Former Sheffield Wednesday club secretary Graham Mackrell is charged with health and safety, and safety at sports grounds offences.

And former solicitor Peter Metcalf, and former police officers Donald Denton and Alan Foster are also scheduled to go on trial in January 2019 charged with perverting the course of justice.

A hearing to determine whether former Chief Constable Sir Norman Bettison will be tried has been adjourned until August.

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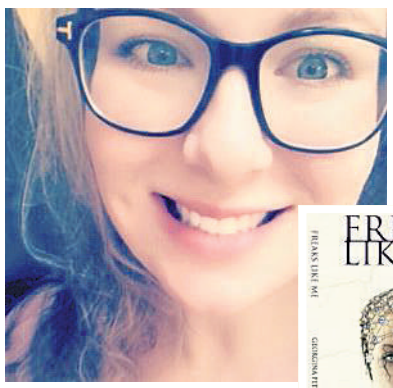
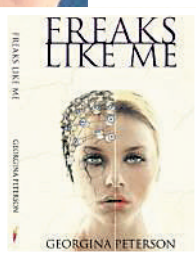
Former Edge Hill student publishes book about life with a rare brain disorder

Georgina wants to help others with same condition

Report by **Tom Martin**





Georgina (above) and the cover of her book (right)

A FORMER Edge Hill University student who has a rare brain disorder has published a book to raise awareness about the condition.

Eight years ago Georgina Peterson was diagnosed with Periventricular Nodular Heterotopia which causes severe epilepsy and has led to her suffering anxiety and depression.

But despite her health problems, the 25-year-old went on to graduate from Edge Hill with an English Literature degree and decided to use her writing talents to pen a book about her daily struggles with the condition.

Entitled *Freaks Like Me* - inspired by a stranger's remark about Georgina - the book is published by Austin Macauley Publishers.

Georgina said: "Seizures are the main way in which my disorder affects me. I have both tonic-clonic seizures and also complex-partial seizures, more commonly known as absent seizures.

"I never have any warning beforehand for either, which is why I need somebody with me all of the time. The seizures can put me in danger and they still scare me sometimes, but we deal with it as well as we can.

"However, when it happens it always makes me feel embarrassed, no matter how much people tell me it's nothing to be bothered about.

"There are also side effects to my medications but the exhaustion and headaches are the recurrent problem.

"There are many ways my disorder affects my life. I don't have any independence. I can't learn to drive. I can't drink alcohol, which sometimes makes me sound like I'm not a 'fun' person.

"I couldn't get a 'normal' job, or even stay in voluntary work, primarily because of how uncontrolled my condition is.

"Though I try my hardest, I still live in fear of my seizures. It's kind of like living on egg shells, waiting for the next time it's going to happen, as it inevitably will.

"There are quite a lot of implications for my future too. I also struggle hugely with my mental health, specifically clinical depression and anxiety, which is not all down to my disorder - there are other reasons too, but it certainly doesn't help!"

Georgina explained that her mum had encouraged her to write a book although she was hesitant at first.

She said: "Writing the book was tough, cathartic, upsetting, peaceful at times. I originally began writing things down to help myself only. I was in intensive therapy for depression and anxiety and found that writing things down was incredibly helpful to me.

"I'd always written stories as a child and loved to use my creativity in that way but I'd lost it somewhere along the way.

"Slowly, I started to piece all the handwritten notes and typed documents together and it became a book, and I started to think that this could actually help somebody else.

"This could have helped the newly-diagnosed, petrified 18-year-old I used to be, when everything changed overnight."

Georgina will be holding a private book launch at Crosby Lakeside on Friday, August 24, with proceeds raised from the event going to charities MIND and The Walton Centre. Anyone wishing to donate is asked to ring 07517 802 732.

County cabinet decision expected on provision of halal meat to schools

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet is expected to make a decision this week on whether to provide only stunned halal meat to schools following a public consultation.

A report published as part of the agenda for the meeting tomorrow (Thursday, July 12) contains analysis of the 8,500-plus responses received during a four-week consultation.

The council currently provides both stunned and un-stunned halal meat in 27 schools where there is the demand for it from the Muslim community and where the headteacher and governing body request this for a proportion of children on the basis of their religious belief. It is considering the proposal that, where halal meat is supplied, this must be stunned.

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Matthew Joyes (holding trophy) and team at the HSJ awards

Care trust wins award and praise for patient safety commitment

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust have been recognised at the HSJ Value Awards held to recognise and celebrate outstanding improvement in care quality and efficiency by the NHS staff and organisations.

The trust received the 'Improving the value of NHS support services' award for its commitment to patient safety.

It was praised for its dedication to becoming a learning organisation and commended for creating a team of specialised serious incident investigators to learn why an incident occurred in order to prevent it happening again, or to minimise the likelihood of a recurrence.

The team have also been working closely with service users and family members who had been involved in a serious incident to recruit investigators and develop storyboards to be used in staff training to improve the trust's response to people affected by an incident.

Matthew Joyes, associate director of safety and quality governance at the trust, said: "I'm so proud that the trust has been recognised nationally for this award. Being affected by a serious incident in healthcare can have life-changing consequences.

"Our team work tirelessly to ensure we involve those people affected by serious incidents in our investigations, to understand what happened and ensure we do all we can to prevent something happening again."

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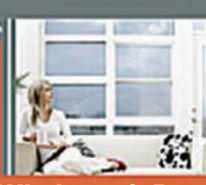

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The cast of Titanic The Musical. Photo by Scott Rylander

Win tickets to see Titanic the Musical

TITANIC the Musical will play the Liverpool Empire from Monday, July 30 until Saturday, August 4 and the Champion has five pairs of tickets to give away for the production.

In the final hour of April 14 1912, the RMS Titanic, on her maiden voyage from Southampton to New York, collided with an iceberg and 'the unsinkable ship' slowly sank.

It was one of the most tragic disasters of the 20th Century. with more than 1,500 men, women and children lost.

Based on real people aboard arguably the world's most famous ship, Maury Yeston and Peter Stone's stunning musical focuses on their hopes and aspirations.

Unaware of the fate that awaits them, the Third Class immigrants dream of a better life in America; the newly-enfranchised Second Class passengers dream of achieving the lifestyles of the rich and famous; while the millionaire barons in First Class envisage their mastery lasting forever.

Directed by returning director, Thom Southerland, the cast will 11 actors returning from Titanic The Musical's performances at the Princess of Wales Theatre in Toronto, Southwark Playhouse and Charing Cross Theatre.

Having received its UK premiere in 2013 at Southwark Playhouse, the production returned to London in 2016 for an 11-week season at the Charing Cross Theatre, where it won overwhelming critical acclaim.

To be in with a chance of winning this competition, simply the following question:

In what year did the Titanic sink?

Send your answers, along with your name, address and a daytime contact number, to: Titanic competition, Champion Newspapers, Clare House, Champion Newspapers, 166 Lord Street, Southport, Merseyside, PR9 OQA.

Tickets are for the Monday, July 30 performance and the closing date for entries is Thursday, July 19.

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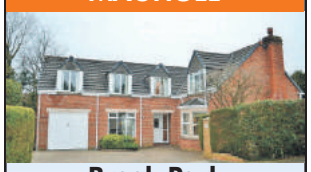

Brook Park
- EXECUTIVE STYLE DETACHED HOUSE
- FOUR DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- FOUR BATHROOMS
- Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room
- Grand Lounge, Sitting Room, Garage
- Gardens either side and rear, Driveway

£460,000

LYDIATE

Silver Birch Way
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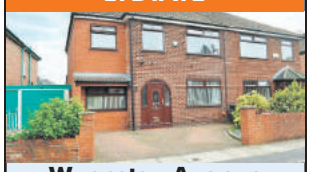

Wynnstay Avenue
- EXTENDED FAMILY HOME
- Five Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Dining Area
- Breakfast Kitchen, Utility Room
- Study, Modern Bathroom
- Gardens Driveway

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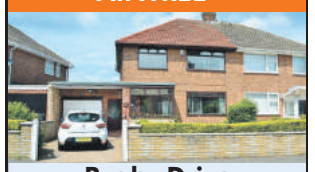

Rugby Drive
- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Kitchen Diner, Utility
- Shower Room, Separate WC
- Gardens, Garage, Driveway
- GCH DG

£199,950

KIRKBY

Saxon Way
- DETACHED FAMILY HOME
- SUMMER HOUSE
- Four Bedrooms, Breakfast Kitchen
- Lounge, Dining Room, Utility Room
- WC, En suite, Bathroom
- Gardens, Driveway, GCH, DG

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49 Westway
- Three Bedroom Penthouse Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom, En Suite
- Garage
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Greenbank Avenue
- CORNER PLOT
- Three Bedrooms
- L Shaped Open Plan Diner Kitchen
- Living Room, Bathroom, WC
- Gardens Front, Side and Rear
- Garage, Driveway, GCH, DG

£175,000

LYDIATE

Coronation Road
- NO CHAIN
- Three Bedroom Semi
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Sun Room, Bathroom,WC
- Lawn Gardens Front and Rear
- Driveway, Garage, GCH, DG

£155,000

NETHERTON

Linden Avenue
- EXTENDED
- Three Bed Semi
- Wraparound Kitchen Diner
- Lounge, Modern Bathroom
- Driveway, Garden
- GCH, DG

£145,000

OLD ROAN

Mostyn Avenue
- NO CHAIN
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Bathroom
- Lawn Gardens Front And Rear
- Garage, GCH

£140,000

KIRKBY

Beldale Park
- NO CHAIN
- Two Bedroom Semi
- Lounge, Kitchen Diner
- Bathroom, Driveway
- Garage, Gardens
- Backs onto Greenbelt
- GCH, DG

OIEO £108,000

MAGHULL

Birch Close
- Ground Floor Flat
- NO CHAIN
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Lounge
- Front Garden and Garage

£100,000

LITHERLAND

Bark Road
- HUGE CORNER PLOT
- NO CHAIN
- 4 Bedroom Semi Detached
- Open Plan Dining Room
- GCH & DG

£99,950

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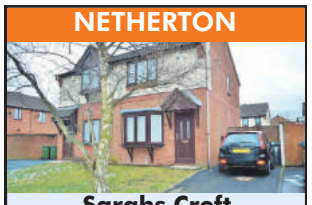


Sarahs Croft
- MODERN SEMI DETACHED
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge, Bathroom
- Kitchen Diner
- Gardens, Driveway
- GCH, DG, NO CHAIN

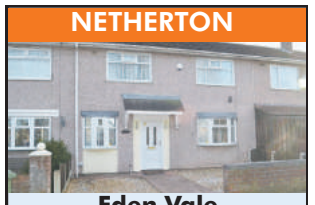
£93,500

WALTON

Grace Road
- Three Bedroom Terrace
- First Floor Bath, Ground Floor Shower
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner
- Enclosed Courtyard to Rear
- GCH, DG

£90,000

NETHERTON



Eden Vale
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- GCH, DG

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BOOTLE

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- DRIVEWAY/GARAGE AND GARDENS
- Three Bedroom Property
- DG & GCH
- CALL TO VIEW!

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- Three Bedrooms
- GCH & DG

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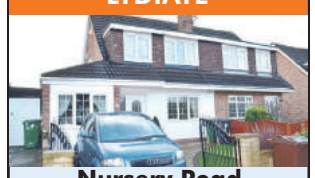
LYDIATE



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- Off Road Parking/garage/Gardens Front & Rear

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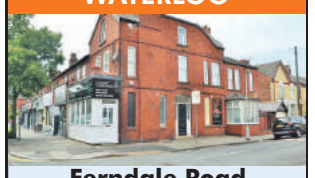

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- Karndean flooring throughout, Combi boiler.

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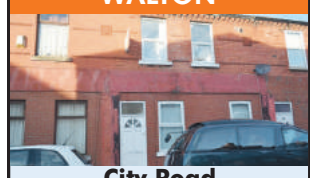
NETHERTON

Stanton Close
- Terraced House
- Three Bedroom
- Hall, Lounge, Diner
- Kitchen, Fully GCH, DG
- Bathroom, Ground Floor WC
- Gardens Front and Rear

£595

WALTON



City Road
- Terrace House
- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen Diner, Bathroom
- GCH, DG
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Touring company returns

Dean Taylor who is staging an outdoor picnic performance of "Warts 'N' All" at Lydiate Abbey on July 28.

FAMOUS for its outdoor Shakespeare tours since 2003 Dean Taylor professional theatre presents an Outdoor picnic performance of Warts 'N' All on Saturday, July 28 at 2pm and 6pm at Lydiate Abbey, Lydiate.

This show is an alternative history of Oliver Cromwell by Dennis Crompton.

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Brandreth had audience 'laughing from the start'

The Champion's Ron Ellis and Ellen Campbell with Michele Brown and Gyles Brandreth

Break A Leg – Gyles Brandreth
The Atkinson Southport

Review and interview by Ron Ellis and Ellen Campbell

GYLES Brandreth has one of the best known faces on TV with his regular appearances on The One Show, Sunday Brunch, etc. and he is equally famous on radio for the long running Just a Minute which he hosted for the first time recently when 94 year old quizmaster, Nicholas Parsons, took his first day off sick for 50 years.

Seventy this year, a quarter of a century has passed since Gyles was the speaker at the Champion's Literary Lunch at the Scarisbrick Hotel but his sparkle and delivery is as infectious as ever and had the audience laughing from the start.

This was one of 19 dates to promote his new book, Break a Leg, a dictionary of theatrical quotations.

Looking around the audience when he bounced onto the stage, he said he knew he was in the right place and proudly announced he was now the voice-over for Tena incontinence pads.

He then proceeded to give us a version of Noel Coward's Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage, Mrs. Worthington, which The Master himself would have been proud of, followed by an hour of non-stop, often indiscreet, gossip about various singers and actors. "I used to like The Benny Hill Show in its day, the way he ran around smirking, pretending to touch up the ladies. Of course he would be arrested now."

Politicians didn't escape. (Gyles was once M.P. for Chester). "I hated the constituents with a vehemence and, at the next election I realised they felt the same about me."

The second half was given over to the audience to ask questions and Gyles was able to reassure one anxious man that he was certainly not after Nicholas Parson's job. He also recited a risqué poem by Ronnie Barker that had the audience shouting along. You never knew what might be coming next. Maybe he would break into a dance. After the show, he spent over half an hour signing copies of his book for the long queue of fans in the foyer before we adjourned to the Vincent Hotel for a late night meal and he and his wife, Michele, spoke about their life together.

The Brandreths are, in fact, a two-handed team. Break a Leg was actually compiled by Michele who is herself a writer. Gyles's contribution was the introduction.

"We're appearing at the Edinburgh Festival all through August, promoting the book, so this is like a trial run to judge the audience reaction," explained Gyles, who has won five-star awards at previous Edinburgh Festivals.

Michele accompanies him on the tour, sitting in the wings making careful notes of which jokes go best and what adjustments might be made to improve it. "We play about with the script as we go along, fine tuning it until we feel we've got it right."

The couple have three children and seven grandchildren. Their son, Benet, is a Q.C. and has just completed his second novel, The Assassin of Verona, featuring William Shakespeare as the hero. Daughter Saethryd is also a writer and her sister, Aphra is a local councillor.

The couple see a lot of their family as they all live reasonably close together around Barnes in South London.

"Money is what brings your grandchildren close to you," said Gyles, half-jokingly.

The couple are travelling round the country by train, not easy in the post-Beeching area, and stay in guest houses along the way. just as if they were on holiday, but they are never out of touch with what is happening in the world. Gyles is a fervent Twitter poster, always in the limelight. A great trouper.

Star Rating 8 out of 10. A thoroughly entertaining, laugh a minute show.

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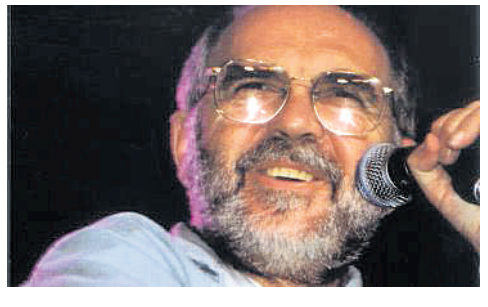
Bothy Folk Club gig



Roy Bailey

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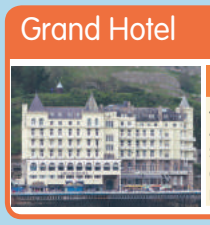

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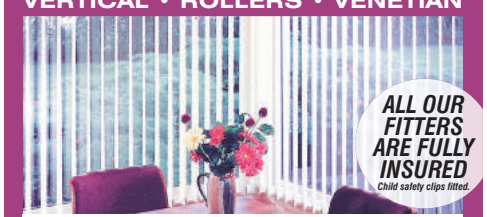

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LIGHT SHADES Glass patterned light shades, as new, £8 for 2. White terry towelling nappies, not used in lovely case, £28. No texts 07564 223114

CURTAINS Double width each curtain fit pole 96inx84in drop Pale copper coloured satin sheen finish fully lined pinch pleat heading £45 01695 576078

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Further details and an application form can be obtained from the school's website at: www.range.sefton.sch.uk

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Announcements

CONGRATULATIONS

RICHARD & SHEILA BIBBY

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

19th July 2018

Congratulations

60 years together

All our love always,

Carolyn, Glen, George & Eloise xx

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PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

A.R.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

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Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

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10th July 2018

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Lots of love and wishes from all the family

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

STANLEY RAYMOND

The family of the late Ray would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind messages, cards and donations for Willowbrook Hospice received during their recent sad loss. Special thanks to all the staff at Willowbrook Hospice for their care of Ray. Thanks to Deidre Brannigan for the lovely service and to F.W. Marsh Funeral Directors.

SLINGER KATHLEEN MAY

Née Coates

The family would like to express their sincere thanks for all the messages of sympathy, cards and heartfelt words you have shared with them. Appreciation to all who came to the funeral. Special thanks to all the medical professionals involved in Kathleen's care. Gratitude to Mere Brow Club and Crem de la crem for their hospitality.

Thank you to Claire, Dave and their team at Newland & Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors for their attention to detail and dignified funeral arrangements.

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

JACKSON LILY

8th July

On what would have been you 90th Birthday Mum.

We send you lots of Love today and always.

From you loving Family

xxxx

IN MEMORIAM

DELANEY FRANCES

9th July 2008

10 years ago you passed away,
Yet it feels like yesterday.
The pain and sorrow is still with us,
as if it 'was' yesterday.
We miss you lots.

Your Husband Jimmy, Sons and Daughters, Grandchildren and your new Great Grandchild

xxxx

SPENCER BRENDA MARY ELIZABETH

9th July 2010

We thought of you with love today, but that is nothing new, we thought about you yesterday and the days before that too. We think of you in silence and often speak your name, all we have are memories and your picture in a frame. Your memory is our keep sake, with which we will never part, God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts.

Love always John, Ann, Bobby, Natalie, Stephen, Andrew and Joseph

xxx

DEATHS

FINCH ELEANOR (NELL) NEE JONES

7th July 2018

Peacefully in Alma Green Care Home, Upholland aged 92 years

The dearly loved Wife of the late Ellis and loving Mum of Paul. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel:01695 722122/720012

ENNIS STEVEN

Passed away 26th June 2018 aged 64 years of Haskayne

Loved and missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 13th July at 1.00pm. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter. MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20, Moss Delph Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 424888

GOULDING DAVE

3rd July 2018

Peacefully at Birch Green Care Home aged 70 years

Loving Partner of Jean, devoted Dad of Drew, Neil and Adrian. Cherished Grandad of all his Grandchildren and a friend to many. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 13th July at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Alder Hey Childrens Hospital. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel:01695 559868

DEATHS

PRENTICE MALCOLM ROBERT

8th July 2018

Peacefully in hospital aged 81 years of Bickerstaffe

The dearly loved Husband of Sheila and loving Dad of the late Neil. Funeral service and interment at Holy Trinity Church, Bickerstaffe on Tuesday 17th July 2018 at 2:00pm. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Holy Trinity Church or Four Lane Ends Mission. All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk & Scarisbrick. Tel: 01695 722122/720012

O'CALLAGHAN FATHER MORTIMER MATTHEW (Mattie)

Passed away peacefully at Dalemain House, Southport on 9th July 2018 aged 89 years

Loved and missed by all his family and friends. Vigil Mass at St John Stone Church Ainsdale on Wednesday 18th July 2018 at 7.00pm. The Requiem Mass will then take place at 12 noon on Thursday 19th July at St John Stone Church Ainsdale followed by Interment at Sacred Heart Cemetery, Southport. Family flowers only please by request, but donations are being gratefully received for Queenscourt Hospice, donations and further enquires please contact Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane,Aughton Tel: 01695 424888.

DOVE JOHN STUART

27th June 2018

Peacefully in hospital, aged 81, of Coppull (formerly of Liverpool)

Beloved Husband of the late Marie, much loved Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad and friend to many. A Requiem Mass will be offered on Monday 16th July 2018 at St Maries RC Church, Standish at 10.30am followed by Interment in the churchyard. Family flowers only please, donations of desired to The British Legion or The Salvation Army c/o and all enquiries to T+ME Walsh, 46/48 Preston Road, Standish, Wigan WN6 0HS. Tel 01257 421608

DEATHS

PRITCHARD NICOLA MARIE

29th June 2018

Aged 43 Years

Died suddenly at home. Much loved Mum of Calum, loving Daughter of Catherine and the late Stephen. Sister of Tracy, Kelly, Danielle and Lee. Nicola will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Now at peace. Service at St Simon and St Jude with All Souls Church on Thursday 19th July at 11:00am followed by interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Flowers welcome. Enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

WILSON PAUL ROGER

3rd July 2018

Aged 61 years

Dearest Son of Hilda and John, treasured Brother of Brian and Christine, Brother-In-Law of Sue and Paul. Special Uncle to all his Nephews and Nieces. Paul will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 16th July at 10:40am. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Queenscourt Hospice. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

HORAN HELEN

8th July 2018

Aged 70 years

Beloved Wife of Denis. Loved Mother of Christine, Michelle and Denis. Dear Grandmother and Great Grandmother. Sadly missed by all the family. Funeral service on Wednesday 18th July at St. Thomas The Martyr Church, Upholland at 3.00pm. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services Tel 01695 731199.

BROMWICH ANTHONY FRANCIS

5th July 2018

Aged 71 years

Beloved Husband of Beryl. Dear Dad of Lee and Craig. Father-in-law of Pauline and Lesley. Grandad to Dylan and Aimee. Funeral service on Monday 16th July at St Helens Crematorium at 1.00pm. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services Tel 01695 731199.

DEATHS

McCAIG SYD

A very good friend of many years has been lost. So sad you have gone. Will miss you so much.
R.I.P.
John, Ann, Robert, Angie, Scott and Chris
xxxxxx

McCAIG SYDNEY

2nd July 2018

Peacefully in hospital aged 89 years

Much loved Husband of Edith, Devoted Dad of Gillian and Tony. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

"A face is from our household gone,
A voice we loved is stilled,
A chair is vacant in our home,
Which never can be filled."

Funeral service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 12th July at 11.20am. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

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MOBILITY

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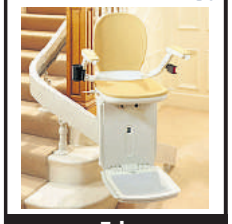

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PUBLIC NOTICES

VERA WATSON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 7 Newburn Close, Whalleys Road, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6PJ, who died on 01/06/2018, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 19/09/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Stephensons Solicitors LLP,
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PUBLIC NOTICES

Licensing Act 2003

Notice of application for premises licence

An application has been made to West Lancashire Borough Council for a Premises Licence in the area of Ormskirk Town Centre (Moor Street and Aughton Street). It is proposed to licence the area for Regulated Entertainment and the Sale of Alcohol at the following times:

Proposed Licensable Activities	Fridays	Saturdays	Sundays
Plays, films, dance, live & recorded music and other similar entertainment e.g. comedy	12.00-21.00	12.00-21.00	12.00-19.00
Supply of alcohol	17.00-21.00	17.00-21.00	12.00-19.00

The application includes the same hours to apply on all Bank Holidays including Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve, but excluding Christmas Day.

The application may be inspected at Licensing Section, West Lancashire Borough Council, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday inclusive. Brief details can be also obtained from the Councils website http://www.westlancs.gov.uk/licensing

Any 'Interested Party' may make representations in writing to the Licensing Section of the Council regarding the application before the **2nd August 2018.** It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and on summary conviction anyone doing so is liable to a fine of £5,000.

See our Picture of the Week on page 16

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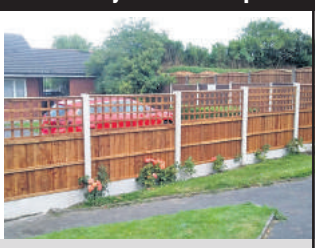

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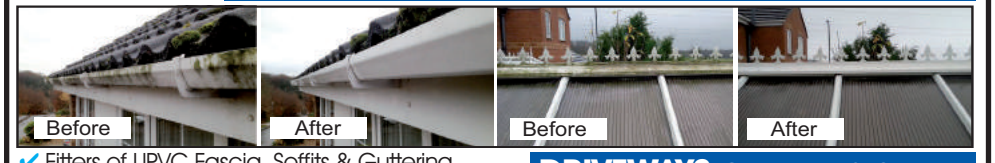

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£159 per month	£159 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£12,847.07
Customer Deposit	£159.00
Deposit Allowance	£2,100.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£10,088.07
47 Monthly Payments	£159.00
Optional Final Payment	£3,681.00
Interest Charges	£1,065.93
Annual Mileage	10,000
Total Amount Payable	£13,913.00
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Viva 1.0 SE 73PS A/C 5dr

£149 per month	£299 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£10,249.31
Customer Deposit	£299.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£9,450.31
47 Monthly Payments	£149.00
Optional Final Payment	£3,396.00
Interest Charges	£994.75
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£11,244.06
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Astra 1.0 ecoTEC SRi 5dr

£229 per month	£229 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£19,286.08
Customer Deposit	£229.00
Deposit Allowance	£3,400.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£15,157.08
47 Monthly Payments	£229.00
Optional Final Payment	£6,033.00
Interest Charges	£1,638.92
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£20,925.00
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Adam 1.2i Energised

£198 per month	£199 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£14,600.00
Customer Deposit	£199.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£12,601.00
47 Monthly Payments	£198.00
Optional Final Payment	£4,553.00
Interest Charges	£1,328.03
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£15,928.03
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X 1.4T ecoTEC Active

£239 per month	£239 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£19,989.17
Customer Deposit	£239.00
Deposit Allowance	£3,000.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£16,250.17
47 Monthly Payments	£239.00
Optional Final Payment	£6,749.00
Interest Charges	£1,777.89
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£21,767.06
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Crossland X 1.2 82PS SE

£209 per month	£209 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£15,570.39
Customer Deposit	£209.00
Deposit Allowance	£600.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£14,261.39
47 Monthly Payments	£209.98
Optional Final Payment	£5,955.00
Interest Charges	£1,562.67
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£17,133.06
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Grandland X 1.2T SE

£249 per month	£249 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£21,336.43
Customer Deposit	£249.00
Deposit Allowance	£1,700.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£18,887.43
47 Monthly Payments	£249.00
Optional Final Payment	£9,364.00
Interest Charges	£2,179.57
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£23,516.00
APR Representative	3.9%

Brand New Vauxhall Insignia Grand Sport 1.5T Design

£259 per month	£259 deposit	£500 minimum p/x

Cash Price	£18,707.38
Customer Deposit	£259.00
Deposit Allowance	£750.00
Minimum Part Ex	£500.00
Amount of Credit	£17,198.38
47 Monthly Payments	£259.00
Optional Final Payment	£6,888.00
Interest Charges	£1,862.62
Annual Mileage	5,000
Total Amount Payable	£20,570.00
APR Representative	3.9%

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14 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ELITE, roman bronze, full leather heated seats, alloys, A/C, 35,000 miles only **£7,999**

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The Compass is one of the Jeep models covered by the latest deal

Jeep has now launched a brand new customer care package for range

JEEP has launched a new customer care package covering every model in its range.

The 5-3-5 package is so called because it combines a five-year warranty with three years of servicing and five years of roadside assistance should the worst happen.

It covers the Wrangler, Renegade, Compass, Cherokee and Grand Cherokee, and runs until further notice.

Go to www.jeep.co.uk for more information.

Fiat is paying homage to its 1950s heritage with its latest 500

FIAT's new special edition 500 commemorates 60th anniversary of spin-offs

FIAT has introduced a new special edition 500 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of its ancestor's spin-offs.

The Spiaggina 58 model pays homage to the original Spiaggina Jolly, an open-top version of the original Fiat 500 of the 1950s, and fittingly the new model is being limited to 1,958 cars.

There's no word on prices for the new model yet, but go online at www.fiat.co.uk to find out more information.

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65 reg Vauxhall VIVA 5dr Hat 1.0i 75ps SE A/c, Solar Red 26138 Miles £5990
61 reg Vauxhall ASTRA 5dr 1.6i Vvt 115ps Elite, Sovereign Silvr 41925 Miles £5999
65 reg Vauxhall VIVA 5dr Hat 1.0i 75ps SE A/c, Silver 14090 Miles £6250
63 reg Vauxhall ADAM Hat 1.2 70ps Jam, Pump up the Blue 25769 Miles £6299
63 reg Vauxhall ASTRA 5dr 1.7cdti 130ps Sri Ecoflex, Red 41698 Miles £6490
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15 reg Vauxhall ADAM Hat 1.2 70ps Jam Urban Pack, Red 20139 Miles £6999
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65 reg Vauxhall Corsa 5dr Hat 1.2 70ps Excite A/c, Summit White 16507 Miles £7499
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16 reg Vauxhall VIVA 5dr Hat 1.0i 75ps SE A/c, Summit White 2887 Miles £7499
64 reg Vauxhall CORSA 5dr Hat 1.4 SE A/c, Waterworld 11905 Miles £7999
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17 reg Fiat 500 Pop Star, Black 1235 Miles £8999
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Strange but true, you tend to forget things that run smoothly

Life On Car
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

THE OTHER night a couple of us went for a meal in Southport where the service wasn't great – so much so that one poor bloke actually started bellowing rather loudly, in a fashion not at all inspired by Jeremy Clarkson, about his lack of freshly cooked steak.

I've had many more evenings out that've run more successfully, but I know already that it'll be this one, and the one at the Yorkshire pub where a cold ciabatta arrived covered in hair and the Aberystwyth café where what arrived wasn't even close to what we'd ordered, that I remember when I'm old and grey. It's weird – but you tend to forget things that run smoothly.

So maybe it's not a good thing that I have such vivid memories of the old Suzuki Swift – and particularly, its go-faster Sport sibling. Long-time *Life On Cars* readers will know that I've long had a soft spot for this petite Oriental offering precisely because it feels like a supermini from the old school – what it lacked in gadgets it more than made up for with its revvy engines, scrabbly handling and general sense of not being an ounce heavier or an inch wider than it needed to be. If you ever misspent your youth in an early Fiesta or a Vauxhall Nova, you'll know exactly what I mean.

Even in non-Sport form I had a real fondness for the 2005-generation model and for its 2011 successor, so I was genuinely excited when I was chucked the keys to the latest version. Having now spent a weekend with the S-ZT model I can report that it's much better than the outgoing car – and bizarrely, slightly worse.

I am, for instance, a big fan of the three-cylinder BoosterJet one-litre petrol engine beneath its bonnet, which might only have 109bhp to hand but it uses a turbocharger and an insatiable appetite for revs to really make the most of it. It only weighs 925kg too – 200 less than an EcoBoost Fiesta – so it always manages to feel sprightly heading away from the lights.

I like how roomy it is inside too, particularly in the back, and how much more refined it feels on the move, particularly on motorways. It's also pretty generously equipped too, with an infotainment system and heated door mirrors on the one I tried, and it consistently returned a fairly impressive 55mpg. Even with my right foot doing the bidding.

But – and I know this will sound like the moanings of that malcontent bloke who's missed out on his dinner – it feels as though in making it ever more refined Suzuki's somehow managed to engineer a lot of the fun out. Chuck it into a corner and there's plenty of grip, and it'll go where you want it to, but the sense of mischief the old models had is gone. It's as though the Swift has reached the point the Golf did 20 years ago – it's a thoroughly grown-up car that you really can't knock, but maybe, just maybe, it's got a bit sensible in its old age.

Suzuki has made its Swift better than ever - but not as much fun

I am prepared, of course, to reserve all judgement until I've tried the latest Swift Sport, though. Watch this space…

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

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Burscough win eases fear of relegation

IN the First Division Burscough eased their relegation worries with a 39 run home win against fellow strugglers Liverpool.

Burscough chose to bat and managed to post 174 up on the board with opener Ryan Hughes top scoring with 68, whilst the pick of the bowlers was Jared Clein with 6-41.

In reply, Lee Berrie led the way with the ball with 5-51 and Chris Andrews took 4-40 as the visitors were dismissed for 135.

Leaders Southport & Birkdale recorded a 90 run win at Newton le Willows.

Choosing to bat first and thanks to a collective effort from Harry May 36, Isaac Lea 34, Adam Burton 33* and Charlie Byrne 26, Southport were able to declare on 191-8, with Matthew Parkinson taking 3-60.

In reply, skipper Chris Firth 13.3-3-55-8 and Gary Keedy 12-6-12-2 then spun the hosts out for just 101 to seal victory with Parkinson unbeaten on 21*.

Fleetwood Hesketh recorded a 51 run home win against Prestatyn, the hosts were put in to bat and recovered from 32-4 to 223 all out, thanks in the main to a 92 ball 93 from Andrew Watts, 35 from Gavin Dickenson and 24 each from Geeth Malinda and skipper Scott Rimmer, with Peter Cassidy taking 5-75 with the ball.

In reply, Ryan Westwell top scored with 67 but the rest fell in frequent fashion as they were dismissed for 172, thanks to a fine spell of bowling from Dickenson 8-66 and Ryan Thomas 2-25.

Ormskirk in hot form as Hartley spins out Lytham

Bailey stars with bat and ball as Northern beat Bootle to stay second

THINGS are hotting up in the Liverpool & District Cricket Competition as the recent long spell of high temperatures continue off the pitch, whilst on it First Division leaders Southport & Birkdale still remain the only unbeaten club in the entire league after extending their lead over second placed Orrell Red Triangle to a massive 67 points, *writes Glenn Wallworth.*

Premier Division leaders Ormskirk made it six consecutive wins with 28 run home victory over Lytham.

Ormskirk elected to bat and thanks to Andy Baybutt 83, Luke Platt 52, Ryan Maddock 28 and 5 from John Armstrong who was playing his 400th league appearance for the club, were able to declare on 213-8, with Anthony Mulligan taking 3-43.

In reply, Tom Jefferson 78 and Matthew Taaffe 43 helped the visitors to 145-2 before a dramatic collapse led by spinner Tom Hartley 7-69 saw Lytham bowled out for 185.

Northern remain five points behind in second place after a six wicket home win against fourth placed Bootle, the visitors chose to bat and apart from Danny Davies 50* and Vishal Tripathi 40 didn't offer much resistance with the willow as they were bowled out for 145, with Tom Sephton taking the bowling honours with 4-18 off 19 miserly overs and Lancashire's Tom Bailey claiming 3-34.

Lancashire's Tom Bailey who took 3-34 and then hit an unbeaten 33* to help Northern beat Bootle. Picture by Roger Green.

In reply Liam Grey weighed in with 50 before Bailey 33* and Justin Snow 26* led the hosts to victory on 149-4.

Third placed Formby continued their recent inconsistent spell of results with a four wicket defeat at struggling Rainford. The visitors were put in to bat and thanks to 5-37 from John Dotters and 3-20 from Danny Houghton were dismissed for just 116. In reply, Matthew White 30 and skipper David Snellgrove 28 then helped the host to 120-6 to wrap up a much needed victory for the hosts.

Maghull suffer heavy defeat to table toppers Northop Hall

IN the Second Division, Maghull were beaten by seven wickets at home against table toppers Northop Hall, the hosts chose to bat with Anthony Molloy senior 59 and Josh Mahoney 42 scoring the majority of the 176 total, with Joshua Andrady 4-14 and Daniel Clubbe 4-36 taking the bulk of the wickets to fall. In reply, an unbeaten 83 from opener James Hurlin paved the way for the visitors to wrap up victory on 178-3.

Southport Trinity recorded a four wicket win at bottom placed Alder, the hosts chose to bat and slipped from 54-1 to 112 all out, thanks to a fine spell of bowling from Mike Sears 4-19 and Liam Simms 4-24.

In reply, Wim Van Der Walt steadied the nerves for the visitors with 42 before they were eventually taken to victory on 113-6 by Luke Falkiner 18* and Simms 13*.

This weekend's local LDCC cricket fixture's (1pm start): Bootle v Rainford, Colwyn Bay v Ormskirk, Formby v Leigh, New Brighton v Northern, Birkenhead Park v Burscough, Liverpool v Ainsdale, Sefton Park v Fleetwood Hesketh, Southport & Birkdale v Wigan, Northop Hall v Hightown St Mary's, Southport Trinity v Spring View and Sutton v Maghull.

Tough draw for Linnets in FA Cup and it will be a derby tie for Skem

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

LOCAL football supporters got their first taste of the coming season when the FA unveiled the draws for the early rounds of the FA Cup, FA Trophy and FA Vase last week and the prospects for Skelmersdale United and Burscough do represent a mixed bag.

The FA Cup is still the flagship cup competition for all non-league clubs especially with the glamour attached to it if a club can make progress and it is the competition that all supporters want to know about.

It could be said that the draw has been fairly kind to Skelmersdale but has handed Burscough quite a daunting task even though it is at home.

The road to Wembley in May begins at Victoria Park on Saturday, August 1l in the Extra Preliminary Round, when Burscough will entertain renowned cup fighters 1874 Northwich.

The Winsford based outfit made a name for themselves in cup games last season, fighting their way through four rounds to reach the third qualifying round of the FA Cup, beating Northwich Victoria and National League North side North Ferriby United on route.

They made a bigger splash in the FA Vase reaching the semi-final before losing out to Thatcham Town with the gates to Wembley tantalisingly beckoning them.

So Dave Sutton's side will really have achieved if they succeed and if they do they will entertain either Northwich Victoria or have a replay of the Macron Cup Final from May with a clash against Widnes.

Skelmersdale begin a round later in the Preliminary Round and have a local derby on their hands. Dave Powell's team will travel to either AFC Liverpool or Ashton Athletic. Neither opposition could be described as easy to beat, but Skem will start out as favourites to pick the £2,890 winners prize money.

In the FA Trophy, Skelmersdale United have avoided the Extra Preliminary Round and begin in the Preliminary Round on Saturday, October 13, when they will have a roses match at home to Frickley Athletic, a side who were regular opponents during Skem's four years in the Evo-Stik Premier Division but like Skem they too have dropped a division since those days.

Burscough had their biggest win of the season last year in the FA Vase (6-0) and this year it could be said that the draw has given them a chance again.

On Saturday, September 1 Burscough will entertain Alsager Town in the First Qualifying Round, the winners travelling to Irlam in the Second Qualifying Round on Saturday 15th September.

The Linnets will perhaps be hoping for another adventure if they progress, last year seeing them go up to Gateshead to play Dunston UTS, where they were rather unlucky to bow out.

In the Macron Cup Burscough who were beaten finalists in May, have been drawn at home to New Mills in the opening round before if they win another home tie against either Sandbach United or AFC Liverpool.

Skelmersdale United supporters are reminded that they start their pre-season schedule next week with trips to North-West Counties league sides, West Didsbury & Chorlton on Tuesday, July 17 and St. Helens Town on Thursday, July, 19 please note the former kicks off at 7.15pm and the later at 7.30pm.

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion

11 July 2018 Vol 25 • Issue 28 www.champnews.com

YOUR LOCAL NEWS IS INSIDE...

Local Charity Blossoms Legacy Are Making A Difference In West Lancs

Who are Blossom's Legacy?...

Blossom's Legacy is a charity based here in West Lancs, created in the memory of a beautiful little girl, Blossom Kelly, who passed away following an accidental drowning in 2016. The charity has been created by Blossom's family with the aim to educate children about water safety and self-rescue techniques, as well as offering parents and opportunity to learn lifesaving CPR skills.

The water safety program developed by Blossom's Legacy aims to educate the children both in the pool and in a classroom environment, to provide water floatation skills and improve risk perception in young children. Aspiring to equip the children with the knowledge to prevent the child from entering a dangerous situation and the self-rescue techniques needed when a person is unable to swim and falls into water.

In The Community

Since the official launch of the charity last summer, Blossom's Legacy has already made a big impact in the local community. Over 250 children are participating in a 5 day water survival course offered to all schools in the West Lancashire area. The programmes is delivered by three fully qualified swimming teachers, and involves both lessons in the pool and classroom based activities that reinforce the safety messages.

Suzan Oliver, Reception Teacher
(St Francis of Assisi)

"The water safety lessons are a 'must' for every child in every school. The progress the children made during the course was amazing and by the end the majority of children could float in the water, out of their depth, and could shout for help even if they were unable to swim. The instructors got to know every child, constantly encouraging them to try their best. The children loved it."

Cindy Busby, Parent

"This is brilliant and my son has benefitted from it so much as his confidence really improved. Also when we went on holiday and to the beach he was telling his brother and sister what was safe and unsafe. A big thank you x."

In addition to the school sessions, this summer Blossom's Legacy and West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust are also offering parents the opportunity to enrol their children onto a water survival programme delivered in either Nye Bevan or Park Pool. There are 2 options - child only, or parent and child - both will give the child an opportunity to learn vital water safety and flotation skills. These classes will be held throughout the summer and bookings can be made directly with Nye Bevan and Park Pool with a £1 per lesson fee.

Child Only Lessons

5 day intensive water survival courses delivered to children of all swimming abilities over 5 consecutive days.

23rd – 27th July 2018	
Nye Bevan – Skelmersdale	*Park Pool - Ormskirk*
10.30 – 11.00 11.00 – 11.30 11.30 – 12.00	13.00 – 13.30 13.30 – 14.00 14.00 – 14.30

30th July – 3rd August 2018	
Park Pool - Ormskirk	*Nye Bevan – Skelmersdale*
10.30 – 11.00 11.00 – 11.30 11.30 – 12.00	13.00 – 13.30 13.30 – 14.00 14.00 – 14.30

Parent & Child Lessons

3 x 30 minute lesson programme delivered on 3 consecutive Saturdays or 3 consecutive Sundays. Parents to attend each and participate in these sessions working in the water with their children to develop the skill.

Sat - 21st July/28th July/4th Aug
Nye Bevan – Skelmersdale
10.30 – 11.00 11.00 – 11.30 11.30 – 12.00

Sun – 22nd July/29th July/5th Aug
Park Pool - Ormskirk
13.00 – 13.30 13.30 – 14.00 14.00 – 14.30

For bookings and enquiries please call:
Nye Bevan: **01695 727111** *Park Pool*: **01695 576325**

Staying Safe This Summer

If you are planning to be near water with a child this summer, please keep the following tips in mind:

- ✔ **Stay close and supervise - it's the best method for drowning prevention.**
- ✔ **Have a water watcher... one adult who is not to read, use a phone, drink alcohol or be occupied in any way other than watching their children. Rotate every 30 mins.**
- ✔ **Get in... have fun don't rely on floats to keep them safe, hold the child, play and make memories... never lie down while children are near water.**
- ✔ **If a child is missing, check the water first.**
- ✔ **Know the address and postcode of where you are staying so you can repeat this quickly to the emergency services if needed.**
- ✔ **Have at least a basic knowledge of CPR.**
- ✔ **Know the emergency contact numbers for the country you are in and how to ask for help in the correct language.**
- ✔ **Empty all paddling pools immediately after use.**

Take your CPR cards...
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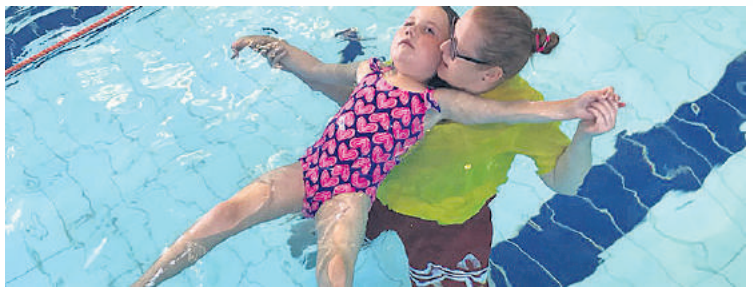
When your child is near the water, you need to be near your child.
If you're not within arms' reach, you have gone too far.
BLOSSOM'S Legacy
www.blossomslegacy.org

Supporters

West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust have provided a generous £12,000 funding contribution towards Blossom's Legacy delivery across the county. Serving the children, schools and pools of West Lancashire aiming to prevent childhood drowning.

This year Blossom's Legacy are honoured to be nominated for the West Lancashire's Mayors Fund Raising Committee. Fundraising events will be planned over the next 12 months with Garden Parties, Race Days and a Caribbean Night to name but a few.

The charity have also been selected by Airborne Environmental Consultants Ltd (AEC), a privately owned independent company. Entering its 20th year in business in 2017, the company have planned a 12 month program of events to raise funds on our behalf. The staff are very dedicated and have decided to take on a triathlon event held Salford Quays on 29th July – there are Team entries / solo entries.
To top this off... AEC will match every penny there staff raise £1 for £1.



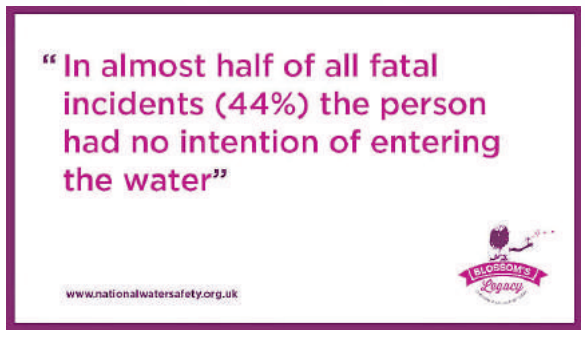
Facts

Drowning is a leading global killer, particularly among children and young adults. It is preventable but neglected relative to its impact on families, communities and livelihoods.

While there is much to learn about drowning and drowning prevention, we must take proven, preventive action while research continues. Margaret Chan Director-General, World Health Organization

Drowning is the 3rd leading cause of unintentional injury death worldwide, accounting for 7% of all injury-related deaths. Globally, the highest drowning rates are among children 1–4 years, followed by children 5–9 years

"Drowning is a serious and neglected global public health issue, claiming a shocking 372,000 lives each year"
www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk


"In almost half of all fatal incidents (44%) the person had no intention of entering the water"
www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk

"Drowning in the UK accounts for more accidental fatalities annually than fire deaths in the home or cycling deaths on the road"
www.nationalwatersafety.org.uk

How Can I Help

If you are interested in supporting the vital work of Blossom's Legacy, there are plenty of ways you can get involved, either independently or by supporting fundraising events in the local community.

Do you fancy running a marathon, competing in a triathlon of your own, holding bake sales? If so please let us know.

You can also donate here: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/2017blossom

You can also support us via The AmazonSmile Foundation, who will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favourite charitable organisation every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.co.uk, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.co.uk, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to us.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.co.uk, you need to select Blossom's Legacy to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. They will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.uk will result in a donation to us.

Website: www.blossomslegacy.org
Just Giving: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/2017blossom
Facebook: blossomlegacy | **Twitter:** @blossomslegacy | **Instagram**: blossomslegacy

Summer Swimming lessons

At West Lancashire Community Leisure Centres

West Lancashire Community Leisure trust is supporting swimming lessons at both Park Pool and Nye Bevan Pool over Summer with 5 day intensive courses at just **£23.50 per week**

Beginners Lessons

for 2 to 5 year olds
9am & 9.30am.

Snorkelling and Rookie lifeguard courses

3pm and 3.30pm for 6 to 16 year olds who can swim but want to gain new skills

Beginners / Improvers Lessons

Lessons for 6-11 year olds
10am and 10.30am

Courses running weekly from 23rd July to 31st August

Park Pool
Park Road, Ormskirk Lancashire L39 3BY
Tel: 01695 576325

West Lancashire Community Leisure

Nye Bevan Pool
The Concourse, Southway, Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6LT
Tel: 01695 727111

www.westlancsleisure.com

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*T&C's Apply

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Lancashire L39 3BY
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Burscough Racquet & Fitness Centre
Bobby Langton Way, Off Mart Lane,
Burscough, Lancashire L40 0SD
Tel: 01704 895266

Nye Bevan Pool
The Concourse, Southway
Skelmersdale, Lancashire WN8 6LT
Tel: 01695 727111

www.westlancsleisure.com

West Lancashire Community Leisure

RAF 100

COMMEMORATE. CELEBRATE. **INSPIRE.**

RAF100

2018 marks 100 years of the Royal Air Force (RAF), the World's first - and most famous - independent Air Force.

The centenary year provides unique opportunities to:

- **Commemorate** 100 years of extraordinary success, achievement and sacrifice
- **Celebrate** the professionalism and dedication of today's RAF
- **Inspire** future generations by telling the unique story of the Royal Air Force

RAF100 is the Campaign to support this milestone in the Nation's history. It launched officially on 1 April this year with the centrepiece taking place on 10 July, with a centenary service held in Westminster. RAF100 will showcase the very best of the Service - with commemorative airshows throughout this summer, themed regional events and unique opportunities for the public to interact through a nationwide tour of famous aircraft from the past 100 years.

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- Adventurous training opportunities

Search RAF Recruitment

RAF 100

APRIL 1, 1918

WHEN AIR POWER CAME OF AGE

The Royal Air Force was formed as a separate Service, independent of the British Army and Royal Navy – the first time that any country had formed an entirely separate and independent air force. The new Service had its own ministry under a secretary of state for air. The 'new' RAF was the most powerful air force in the world with more than 290,000 personnel and nearly 23,000 aircraft, and fought effectively from April 1 1918 over the Western Front in support of ground forces. General Jan Christian Smuts said of Air Power: 'There is absolutely no limit to the scale of its future independent war use.'

MARCH 5, 1936

SPITFIRE: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT SUPREME

The prototype flew for the first time on March 5, 1936, although the first Mk I was not delivered to 19 Squadron at RAF Duxford until August 4, 1938. Designed by Reginald Joseph Mitchell, the Spitfire became one of the most successful fighter aircraft ever built. By September 1939, ten Spitfire squadrons were operational, and 19 were ready to engage the Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain. The Spitfire was championed as the most effective fighter during this period. The RAF flew its last operational Spitfire (PR.Mk XIX) sortie over Malaya, on April 1, 1954, reconnoitring rebel positions.

JULY 10, 1940 – OCTOBER 31, 1940

BATTLE OF BRITAIN: STRUGGLE FOR SUPREMACY

The Battle of Britain ranks alongside the Battles of Trafalgar and Waterloo as one of the most significant in British History. Without the radar scientists; WAAFs and airmen; volunteers of the Royal Observer Corps; plotters; tellers; and controllers; telephone engineers; production workers in our aircraft factories; airfield ground crews and the Commanders, the valour of 'The Few' would not have achieved their mission. The victory combined organisational mastery, governmental support, technological innovation, and industrial capacity with the bravery, commitment and skill of our young pilots.

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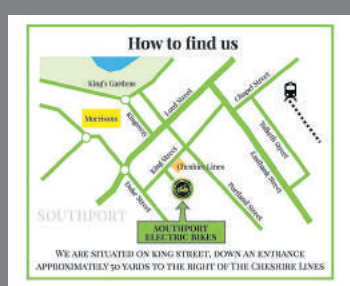
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TIMELINE

MAY 6, 1965

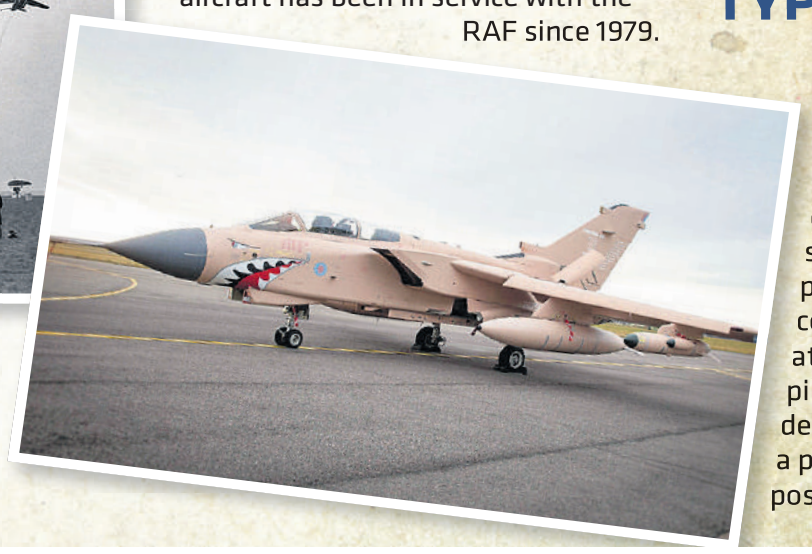
BIRTH OF THE RED ARROWS

Established March 1 1965, the team's first official display took place May 6 1965 at RAF Little Rissington for the press. The first public air display was staged May 9 at the French Air Force base at Clermont Ferrand. But the first air show in the UK was May 15 at the Biggin Hill International Air Fair, Kent. During the first season the Reds flew 65 displays in Britain and Europe and was awarded the Britannia Trophy in recognition of its outstanding contribution to British prestige in the field of aviation.

FEBRUARY 28, 1991

TORNADO HONOURED FOR GULF WAR OPS

An RAF Tornado GR4 has been painted in the iconic Gulf War 'desert pink' paint scheme to honour the aircraft type's almost continuous operational service since the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. The 'desert pink' Tornado, number ZG750, is based at RAF Lossiemouth with XV(R) Squadron, and saw active service during Operation Granby, the UK's codename for the Gulf War. The aircraft carries 11 battle honours on its tail, including Operation Granby, Telic, Herrick, Ellamy and Shader. This two-seat, day or night, all-weather attack aircraft has been in service with the RAF since 1979.



JULY 1, 2008

MULTI-ROLE TYPHOON FIRST

Typhoon FGR4 became the first RAF fast jet to be declared multi-role capable. Designed as a swing-role combat aircraft, Typhoon is capable of completing contrasting tasks in a single sortie. Its optimised airframe, powerful engines and advanced flight control system confer excellent agility at all speeds. Typhoon aircraft and their pilots, provide Quick Reaction Alert UK air defence capability around the clock, with a permanent detachment of QRA aircraft positioned in the Falklands.

RAF 100 APPEAL

Volunteer: Support a century of service

This year, the Royal Air Force celebrates 100 years in the air. We're proud to support servicemen and women both past and present, and **we need your help**.

We'd love you to **be at the heart of** the celebrations in a city near you as we honour veterans and serving personnel with flypasts, parades and special events.

Can you do your bit? Help us collect for the charities that care for the RAF family.

Everyone can be a part of history. Find your nearest collection and volunteer at rafa.org.uk/raf100volunteer *Volunteers must be 18+*

The RAF100 Appeal is a joint venture that supports:

ROYAL AIR FORCE · ROYAL AIR FORCES Association · Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund · ROYAL AIR FORCE Charitable Trust · ROYAL AIR FORCE museum

RAF 100

ORMSKIRK resident and ex RAF pilot shares inspirational stories of Second World War heroes.

Bill Thelwell, 85, undertook his national service from 1951-1953 and continued as a pilot until 1957. He worked in a bank in Maghull before and then after his service with the RAF when he flew Tiger Moths, a Chipmunk and an Oxford.

Originally from Walton and now living in West Lancashire, Mr Thelwell has met up with other pilots since he left the RAF.

Bill's photograph below is of the Number 2 Basic Flying Training School of the Royal Air Force, at Ansty in Warwickshire. He says that '10% of the group were killed before they even had chance to do anything.'

He said: "Brian Rundell, nicknamed Geordie (back, fifth from right) died when one of the engines on his plane caught fire and he couldn't keep the plane straight. Second right, Jerry Raynor, also died as did John Kidd, third from right on the second row. The war in Korea finished before our training had even been completed."

He shared his most inspirational stories which he read about in three main books: Air War in Malta, Bomber Squadron and Lost Take Off.

He said: "Bill Dunsmore, a pilot, was flying a bomber during the Second World War in Malta when they were shot down whilst on a mission to attack an important Italian supply ship. Having ditched in the sea, they were picked up by an Italian seaplane and taken to an air base on a nearby Greek island. The following day they were loaded onto another plane to be transferred to Taranto and a life behind barbed wire. During the flight however, the world's first skyjack took place as the pilots overpowered their captors and took control of the plane. However now in control of an enemy plane, with no maps to navigate they were at great risk from running out of fuel and allied Spitfires.

Bill Thelwell (back row, fifth from left) with his training group in the RAF

"Gilly Marsh from Ormskirk Newsagents in Burscough Road. Gilly was flying a Sterling Bomber over Germany when a shell exploded in front of his cockpit. The blast deafened Gilly, destroyed his sciatic nerve and killed his co-pilot. The bomb aimer managed to take charge of the aircraft and fly them back to Great Britain.

Bill then recalled "A Czechoslovakian called Yan Bozdiek who escaped his country after Germany took over. He travelled to France, where he helped with the French resistance and rescued an Alsatian from a farmhouse then escaped to England and joined up to the RAF, alongside his dog.

"The dog went everywhere with him, including his flying. They were once shot down over the Mediterranean and the dog was slightly injured, with one bent ear after that.

"When they had been picked up and were back in Liverpool, they were walking along Castle Street and the dog started barking – they then found a woman and child still alive in ruins left from a bomb raid!

After the war ended, the pair returned to Czechoslovakia. Yan soon heard that the Russians were rounding up all former 'enemy' fighters. He once again fled the country but was seen by a guard trying to cross the border. His dog saved him by fighting off the guard then chasing after him and catching him up. They returned to England and Yan became an RAF instructor at RAF Dalcross – where I met him and the dog! I knew absolutely nothing of any of this until his story was serialised in the Daily Mail many years later and his dog, which died in 1953, was awarded the Dickin Medal.

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Ormskirk, Lancashire

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RAF 100

A CADET from Crosby has overcome more than 7,500 others to be named the 'highest performing' in the UK at a prestigious national awards ceremony.

Charlotte Apel, 19, was presented with the Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword at the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) Awards, which took place at RAF College Cranwell, in Lincolnshire.

CWO Apel, from Merchant Taylors' Combined Cadet Force, battled it out against 7,500 cadets from across the RAF's 230 cadet units, to be named the winner and as part of the prize she will be invited to Buckingham Palace for lunch with the Queen.

The Sir John Thomson Memorial Sword commemorates the life of Air Chief Marshal, Sir John Thomson and is awarded each year to the highest performing CCF cadet in the UK.

This is the first time the coveted title has been won by a Merchant Taylors' pupil and Charlotte was one of only five people to be called for interview following the nominations last November.

As part of the award win, she will be leading the cadet parade at the Shuttleworth Air Show, in July, where she will be presented with the sword officially by Lady Thomson, the wife of the late Sir John Thomson.

Charlotte, who hopes to join the University Air Squadron at Lancaster University, after completing her A-Levels, said: "I was so surprised and honoured when they called out my name and I am still in a state of shock at winning. This award is the pinnacle of success for a cadet and it is incredible to be ending my CCF career with Merchant Taylors on such a high.

"I'd like to to thank Ma'am Dipple, who is the head of the RAF cadet contingent at the school and nominated me for the award. She really supported me with all the preparation leading up to it and I couldn't have done it without her."

• The Merchant Taylors' Combined Cadet's Force has over 260 cadets, who in addition to weekly training have the opportunity to attend a variety of camps and courses, both here in the UK and overseas. A central aim of the CCF is to develop leadership and teamwork skills among cadets.

Charlotte is presented with her award at the Royal Air Force Air Cadets Awards

A SENIOR Aircraftman who hails from West Lancashire will fulfil his childhood dream this summer... flying in the back seat with the world-famous Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, The Red Arrows.

Andrew Brooks is one of a ten-strong team of engineers known as the 'Circus Blues', who has been assigned to a specific aircraft and pilot throughout the 2018 display season.

He will travel as a passenger in one of the Red Arrows' two-seat Hawk aircraft in transit flights to over 80 display venues throughout the UK and Europe - flying at speeds of more than 350mph.

Once his aircraft arrives at each display's operating base, Andrew is responsible for servicing the aircraft before it can fly again.

Andrew was educated in West Lancashire, attending Cobbs Brow Primary School and Lathom High School before completing a BTEC National Diploma in Sports Coaching, Development and Fitness at Skelmersdale College.

He said: "Being selected for 2018 Circus was amazing. When it was announced I couldn't believe it, to have the opportunity to fly in the back seat of the Red Arrows Hawk T1 is an amazing experience and something I never thought I would do this early in my RAF career."

As Circus 4, Andrew has been paired with Red 4, Flight Lieutenant Chris Lyndon-Smith.

Andrew has worked on Chinook helicopters and has completed detachments to the Middle East and spent time on light aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious during his time at RAF Odiham.

Officially known as the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows showcase the excellence of the RAF and represent the United Kingdom both at home and overseas.

The team consists of nine display pilots and more than 100 support personnel and technicians. Each of the pilots have previous fast jet operational experience flying the Tornado or the Typhoon; the aircraft that enable the RAF to secure the skies and protect the nation and it's interests, 365-days a year.

One of the world's premier aerobatic teams, the Red Arrows had completed 4,660 displays, in 57 countries, by the end of 2017. Flying Hawk jets, the team is based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire.

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LOCAL INTEREST

A MAN from Maghull is among a team of mechanical engineers from the Royal Air Force who were selected to carry the RAF 100 Baton across the country to celebrate the service's centenary.

They carried the baton with them as they attempted to complete the 'three peaks' challenge in 24 hours for charity.

Tom Carr, 22, was among a team of ten who took on the challenge, climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Mount Snowden. The specially designed baton set off on a journey around the UK and abroad on April 1 and was carried by a host of different volunteers who all have a connection to the RAF, and visited 100 sites around the UK associated with the service. The team have raised money for the four main RAF charities, which are: The RAF Benevolent Fund; The Royal Air Forces Association; the RAF Museum; and The RAF Charitable Trust. The RAF 100 Baton ended it's journey when it was delivered to The Queen in London this week on July 10 at Horse Guard's Parade. The group are all based at Number 4 School of Technical Training at MOD St Athan and are training to be general technicians.

Tom said: "We were pushing ourselves to the extreme to climb the three highest mountains in the UK in under 24 hours. It was tough, but being part of the RAF 100 Baton Relay and also raising money for the RAF 100 appeal was a great privilege for us all."

The team set off from MOD St Athan in Wales on June 15 and stayed overnight at Lochaber Air Cadet Squadron. They then tackled Ben Nevis first, followed by Scafell Pike and then Snowdon.

Tom added: "I have done this because it is important to both remember and thank the veterans who fought and died for the sake of our country, and the Air Force. It is also important to thank the people serving today in uncertain times and also to inspire the next generation to ensure the Royal Air Force can continue on for another century."

A FORMER RAF sergeant from West Lancashire has been chosen as vice-captain of Team GB for this year's Invictus Games.

Michelle Turner, from Burscough, who served with the RAF for 20 years, is one of the 72-strong team selected out of 411 hopefuls to represent the country at the games in Sydney, Australia in October. The games were created by Prince Harry for wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and their associated veterans and features many sports including swimming, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, and indoor rowing.

Michelle, who has a young daughter Maya, has a heart condition which causes exhaustion, extreme dizziness and unannounced collapses. As a result, she had confined herself to her house for fear of collapsing in public. However, she overcame that fear and took part in the Invictus Games in Toronto in 2017 and credits the games with transforming her life.

She said: "My Invictus journey so far has been incredible. It transformed me from a mum, too scared to leave the house to top female rower for Team GB.

"It also saved my marriage and gradually gave my little girl her mummy back."

The day after competing in the rowing in Toronto, Michelle collapsed in the hotel lobby.

She was devastated but she says Invictus had taught her to never give up and, instead of staying in her room crying on returning from hospital, she got onto the coach, fully intending to take part in the swim heats. However, she hadn't recovered enough and reluctantly had to pull out although she eventually joined her teammates to cheer them on in the final swimming events.

"I've never felt anything like that day in my life, it was a true rollercoaster of every emotion.

I would have done anything to get in that water. I collapse unannounced at any moment so why would I dive into a swimming pool anyway? Because Invictus taught me that I can and gave me the confidence to!

I had trained so hard but didn't get to take part - I didn't even get wet!

So I definitely have unfinished business in the pool and being selected for the GB team again has given me that opportunity.

To be made vice-captain is just the cherry on the cake. I am so proud!"

Former RAF Sergeant Michelle Turner

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